ENROLLED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 44

By: Fisher, Taylor, Morgan, Kerr, Williams, Aldridge, Branan, Brogdon, Cain, Capps, Coates, Coffee, Corn, Crutchfield, Dunlap, Easley, Fair, Ford, Gumm, Harrison, Helton, Hobson, Horner, Johnson, Laster, Laughlin, Lawler, Leftwich (Debbe), Lerblance, Littlefield, Maddox, Milacek, Monson, Myers, Nichols, Price, Pruitt, Rabon, Reynolds, Riley, Robinson, Rozell, Shurden, Smith, Snyder, Wilcoxson, Wilkerson and Williamson of the Senate

and

Ferguson, Easley, Adair, Adkins, Armes, Askins, Balkman, Benge, Blackburn, Blackwell, Bonny, Boren, Braddock, Brannon, Calvey, Carey, Cargill, Case, Claunch, Coleman, Covey, Cox, Dank, Davis, Deutschendorf, DeWitt, Dorman, Eddins, Ellis, Ericson, Erwin, Gilbert, Graves, Greenwood, Hamilton, Harrison, Hastings, Hefner, Hiett, Hilliard, Hutchison, Ingmire, Jones, Kirby, Lamons, Langmacher, Leist, Lindley, Liotta, Maddux, Mass, McCarter, McClain, McIntyre, Miller (Doug), Miller (Ray), Mitchell, Morgan (Danny), Morgan (Fred), Nance, Nations, Newport, O'Neal, Paulk, Perry, Peters, Peterson (Pam), Peterson (Ron), Pettigrew, Phillips, Piatt, Plunk, Pope, Reynolds, Rice, Roan, Roberts, Roggow, Smaligo, Smith, Smithson, Staggs, Stanley, Steele, Sullivan, Sweeden, Taylor, Tibbs, Toure, Trebilcock, Turner, Tyler, Vaughn, Walker, Wells, Wilson, Wilt, Winchester, Worthen, Wright and Young of the House

A Concurrent Resolution directing the site of the new Oklahoma History Center be named "The Henry and Shirley Bellmon Oklahoma History Center Park"; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Henry Louis Bellmon was born on a farm near Tonkawa in Kay County, Oklahoma, in 1921. Educated in Noble County public schools, he graduated from Billings High School in 1938 and from Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College (Oklahoma A&M, now Oklahoma State University), in 1942; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Lee Osborn was born August 10, 1927, in Billings, Oklahoma, to James Ray and Laurine Osborn. She grew up in Billings, living six miles from her future husband. Shirley graduated from Billings High School in 1945 and attended Oklahoma A&M; and

WHEREAS, Henry Bellmon, a member of the United States Marine Corp during World War II, served with a tank company for over three years. In that capacity he won the Legion of Merit and Silver Star after participating in four Pacific campaigns, including the Battle of Iwo Jima; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Bellmon attended the Billings Methodist Church, where she met Henry Bellmon in 1946. One Sunday she stopped on her way home from church to help Henry with a flat tire. They were engaged that week and married on January 24, 1947; and

WHEREAS, Henry Bellmon was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 1946. He was reelected in 1948 but in 1950 returned to his farm to raise wheat and cattle; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Bellmon's roots were in her hometown where she helped Henry with the farm while bearing and caring for their three daughters. With the advent of his political career, she became active in politics and was her husband's strongest supporter; and

WHEREAS, Henry Bellmon chaired the Noble County Republican Party and in 1960 served as chair of Oklahoma's Republican Party. In 1962 he was elected Oklahoma's first Republican Governor, the first graduate from Oklahoma State University to be elected to that position. Governor Bellmon's administration was known for government reform and improvement of services to Oklahoma residents; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Bellmon was the original "Bellmon Belle"——the inspiration for the women who worked in her husband's 1962 campaign. She demonstrated her interest and talent in sewing and the crafts by creating the "Bellmon Belle" dress. Mrs. Bellmon worked with her husband in both terms he served as Governor of Oklahoma and later when he served as U.S. Senator from Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Henry Bellmon was elected to the United States Senate in 1968 and reelected in 1974. He was a member of the U.S. Senate Finance Committee, where he championed fiscal responsibility. Henry Bellmon did not seek reelection in 1980 but returned to his farm; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Bellmon was a 4-H sponsor and an active member of the Town and Country Home Demonstration Club, the Billings Chamber of Commerce, and the First Presbyterian Church of Perry. She was a board member of the Service Bank of Tonkawa, the Oklahoma

Heritage Association, and Billings' "A Walk Through History" event; and

WHEREAS, Henry Bellmon lectured at Oklahoma City University, Central State University, the University of Oklahoma, and Oklahoma State University. He also served as a commentator for a local television station. In 1990 Henry Bellmon founded and was the first Director of the Oklahoma Alliance for Public Policy Research, an organization dedicated to facilitating formation of research teams from various universities for the purpose of conducting research on public policy; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Bellmon founded the U.S. Senate Wives Club. Mrs. Bellmon was the owner and operator of the First Lady Doll Collection factory in Billings and the First Lady's Café, where she also worked as a short-order cook. She was a leader of the Friends of the Governor's Mansion; and

WHEREAS, Henry Bellmon in 1983 was appointed Director of the Department of Human Services, Oklahoma's largest state agency, where he served with distinction. He was appointed receiver of the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City in 1985 and was largely responsible for overcoming its financial difficulties and placing it on a sound fiscal footing. Henry Bellmon was elected Governor of Oklahoma in 1986, becoming the second governor to serve more than one term. As in his first term, Henry Bellmon emphasized education, mental health, and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Bellmon selected four key projects as her focus during the second gubernatorial term of her husband. The first was that of state beautification, which led to her involvement in the "Don't Lay That Trash on Oklahoma" campaign. She advocated home businesses with the "Made in Oklahoma" movement. In 1989 she organized the Oklahoma Home-Based Business Association, the first statewide home-based business association in the nation. Her talent in the arts and crafts led her to design clothes under the "Shir-Lee" label. Mrs. Bellmon was also an advocate of "The Main Street Project" and the state's anti-drug campaign; and

WHEREAS, Shirley Lee Bellmon died Monday July 24, 2000, while vacationing with her family at Falmouth, Massachusetts. In March 2001, her portrait was unveiled at the Pioneer Woman Museum's Wall of Fame. The Wall of Fame features women from Oklahoma who have made a significant contribution to history in the state and the nation. Also in 2001 Shirley Bellmon was inducted into the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame. Shirley Bellmon was also a recipient of the George Shirk Award for Historic Preservation; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma State Legislature seeks to celebrate the successful partnership of Henry and Shirley Bellmon and their joint contribution to promoting the State of Oklahoma, respecting its traditions, and preserving its history.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature directs that the site of the new Oklahoma History Center, located on the northeast corner of Northeast 23rd Street and Lincoln Boulevard in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, be named "The Henry and Shirley Bellmon Oklahoma History Center Park".

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Henry Bellmon; his three daughters, Gail Wynne, Pat Hoerth, and Ann McFerron; and the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Adopted by the Senate the 25th day of February, 2004.

_____
Presiding Officer of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 12th day of April, 2004.

_____
Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives