

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 49th Legislature (2004)

HOUSE CONCURRENT

RESOLUTION HCR1088:

Dorman of the House

and

Johnson of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution honoring Barry Sanders on his induction into the College Football Hall of Fame and the Pro Football Hall of Fame; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Barry Sanders began his football career in his hometown of Wichita, Kansas, where he earned all-state honors as a senior running back at Wichita North High School; and

WHEREAS, Barry Sanders continued his football career at Oklahoma State University where he earned All-American honors in 1987 as a return man while playing behind starting tailback and future NFL player Thurman Thomas; and

WHEREAS, in 1988 Sanders dominated college football by posting the best rushing season in college football history with Sanders shattering several NCAA single-season and career marks including rushing for a record 2,628 yards and scoring 37 touchdowns; and

WHEREAS, Sanders ended his collegiate career with a five-touchdown and 222-yard performance against the Wyoming Cowboys in the 1988 Holiday Bowl while leading the OSU Cowboys to a 62-14 victory; and

WHEREAS, the incredible 1988 season resulted in Barry Sanders becoming the first OSU football player to win the Heisman Trophy as the nation's best college football player in 1988; and

WHEREAS, Barry Sanders was the first true junior to be drafted in the National Football Draft when he was selected as the third overall pick in the 1989 draft by the Detroit Lions; and

WHEREAS, Sanders quickly made an impact in the first year with the Lions by rewriting the Lions rushing record book in his rookie season and by earning several Rookie of the Year honors and being named to the Pro Bowl; and

WHEREAS, Barry Sanders spent his entire ten-year professional career with the Lions and set a variety of team records. In addition, he was selected to the Pro Bowl for all ten years of his career, became the first player to rush for 1,000 yards in his first 10 years and was twice named the NFL's offensive player of the year; and

WHEREAS, on the playing field Barry Sanders was known for his elusive, but exciting running style and his quiet demeanor which included his trademark move of always quickly handing the football to the nearest official after his many touchdowns; and

WHEREAS, Sanders quietly retired from professional football in 1999 to pursue family, business, and charitable interests; and

WHEREAS, Barry still has close business and personal ties to Oklahoma and spends much of his time in the state enjoying the athletic and scholastic endeavors of his son B.J.; and

WHEREAS, Barry Sanders has been honored for his achievements by being inducted into the Kansas Sports Hall of Fame and the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame and has been selected for induction into the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame in August of 2004; and

WHEREAS, Barry Sanders was honored for his exploits at the college level by being inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2003; and

WHEREAS, Barry Sanders is a first ballot selection for the 2004 class of the Pro Football Hall of Fame with enshrinement scheduled for August 8, 2004, in Canton, Ohio.

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

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature recognizes the many
accomplishments of Barry Sanders on and off the field and honors him
for his recent induction into the College Football Hall of Fame and
his pending induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Barry Sanders.

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