

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

HOUSE

RESOLUTION HR1008

By: Maddux

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution commending the Department of Transportation for completion of the Interstate 40 bridge over Webbers Falls; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the collision of a boat pushing two barges with the Interstate 40 bridge over the Arkansas River on May 26th, 2002, resulted in the death of 14 people and the destruction of more than 500 feet or four spans of the bridge; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the loss of life, a vital cross-country route carrying thousands of vehicles per day had been interrupted; and

WHEREAS, the original estimate for the period of time to repair the bridge was as long as six months, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation immediately brought all its resources to bear on the crisis; and

WHEREAS, Department of Transportation leadership and field personnel worked tirelessly and with the highest standards of dedication and professionalism on the repair of the bridge; and

WHEREAS, the twenty-four-hour-per-day effort of maintaining the 70 miles of detour routes and guiding the work of the contractors resulted in a record-setting completion time for the project of 47 days, with traffic back on the bridge only 65 days from the day of the collision; and

WHEREAS, the partnerships and cooperation between the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and contractors, government agencies

and cities during this challenging time were in keeping with the level of performance that has come to be known as the Oklahoma Standard.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives commends the Oklahoma Department of Transportation for its singular accomplishment in restoring the Interstate 40 bridge at Webbers Falls to service quickly and safely, reflecting the fine spirit and unflagging tenacity of all concerned.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Department of Transportation.

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