ENGROSSED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 11

By: Jolley of the Senate

and

Dorman of the House

A Concurrent Resolution supporting the National Anthem Project; commending the National Association for Music Education and the First Lady of the United States; calling upon all Oklahomans to respect the lyrics of the National Anthem; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the Star-Spangled Banner was adopted as the National Anthem of the United States in 1931 by an Act of Congress; and

WHEREAS, a recent Harris Interactive Survey discovered that of men and women 18 years of age and older, sixty-one percent of those surveyed did not know all the lyrics of the first stanza. Of those who answered the question correctly, fifty-eight percent had received at least five years of music education while growing up. An ABC News poll revealed that more than one in three Americans (thirty-eight percent) don't know the official name of the National Anthem is The Star-Spangled Banner, less than thirty-five percent of American teens can name Francis Scott Key as the composer of the National Anthem, and as few as fifteen percent of American youth can sing the words to the anthem from memory; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Music Educators has taken a lead role in promoting the National Anthem through "The National Anthem Project" to help remedy this concern. The First Lady of the United States, Laura Bush, has agreed to serve as the Honorary Chairperson of "The National Anthem Project" and is lending her support and visibility to this effort; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of persons are violating The Code for the National Anthem of the United States of America as adopted by

the National Anthem Committee on April 2, 1942, by changing the last line of the Anthem from the “home of the brave” to the home of their favorite sports team in unintentional disrespect of those who have bravely fought for their country and perished in that effort.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 50TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature finds the number of citizens of the United States who are unable to correctly sing the National Anthem appalling, supports the National Anthem Project, and encourages all Oklahoma music educators to participate in the National Anthem Project as promoted by the National Association of Music Educators.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature commends the National Association of Music Educators and the First Lady of the United States for their efforts on behalf of the National Anthem Project and thanks the First Lady of the United States, Laura Bush, for her willingness to lend her support and visibility as Honorary Chairperson of The National Anthem Project.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature calls upon all Oklahomans to respect the lyrics of the National Anthem and to continue to support the outstanding athletic teams in our state but to refrain from extending that proper support to unintentionally disrespecting those brave men and women who have fought and perished on behalf of our great country by changing the lyrics of the last line in the National Anthem to other than “O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave.”

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the First Lady of the United States, Laura Bush; the Presidents of the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University; the General Managers of the Oklahoma Redhawks, Oklahoma City Blazers, Tulsa Oilers, Tulsa Talons, Oklahoma City YardDogz, and Tulsa Drillers; David Circle of

Stilwell, Kansas, President of the National Association of Music Educators; and James South of Southwestern Oklahoma State University, President of the Oklahoma Association of Music Educators.

Adopted by the Senate the 7th day of April, 2005.

_____
Presiding Officer of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____, 2005.

_____
Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives