ENROLLED HOUSE
RESOLUTION NO. 1107

By: Calvey, Adkins, Armes, Askins, Auffet, Balkman, Banz, Benge, Billy, Bingman, Blackburn, Blackwell, Braddock, Brannon, Brown, Carey, Cargill, Case, Coody, Cooksey, Covey, Cox, Dank, Denney, DePue, Deutschendorf, DeWitt, Dorman, Duncan, Eddins, Ellis, Gilbert, Glenn, Hamilton, Harrison, Hastings, Hickman, Hiett, Hilliard, Hyman, Ingmire, Jackson, Jett, Johnson, Jones, Kern, Kiesel, Lamons, Liebmann, Lindley, Liotta, Martin, Mass, McCarter, McDaniel, McMullen, McPeak, Miller (Doug), Miller (Ken), Miller (Ray), Morgan (Danny), Morgan (Fred), Morrissette, Nance, Nations, Newport, Perry, Peters, Peterson (Pam), Peterson (Ron), Piatt, Plunk, Pruett, Reynolds, Richardson, Roan, Roggow, Rousselot, Shelton, Sherrer, Shoemake, Shumate, Smaligo, Smithson, Staggs, Steele, Sullivan, Sweeden, Terrill, Thompson, Tibbs, Toure, Trebilcock, Turner, Walker, Wesselhoft, Wilt, Winchester, Worthen, Wright and Young

A Resolution honoring those who gave their lives and those who survived Stalag Luft IV Prisoner of War Camp; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Stalag Luft IV Prisoner of War Camp, located in what is now Poland, was opened in 1944 and housed many airmen who were shot down in combat; and

WHEREAS, the thousands of American POWs who were moved to Stalag Luft IV endured a horrendous trip, many of them still suffering from untreated wounds and injuries they received in combat; and

WHEREAS, Stalag Luft IV housed 10,000 Allied POWs, far over capacity, and were supplied poorly with insufficient clothing, no bathing or delousing facilities, and deficient medical supplies; however, the men courageously encouraged each other and protected each other as best they could; and

WHEREAS, on January 28, 1945, the sick and injured were transported to Barth or Nuremburg via train and packed in boxcars where they had to stand for eight days with very little food and water; and

WHEREAS, on February 6, 1945, during the coldest European winter of the past century, the remaining men, with a derisory amount of

food and water, and with contemptible and insufficient clothing, were forced to march 86 days and more than 500 miles to their final freedom; and

WHEREAS, these heroes suffered from diphtheria, pneumonia, cellulitis, malaria, and rampant dysentery, as well as being covered by lice and fleas and frostbite and infected blisters that resulted in many amputations, and still they offered hope and encouragement to their exhausted comrades; and

WHEREAS, each veteran's experience and story is different; we are privileged to live among these heroes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 50TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives honors these heroes of Stalag Luft IV for their bravery, tenacity, and spirit.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives encourages all the citizens of Oklahoma to honor each and every veteran from Stalag Luft IV and to aspire to their valor, determination, and strength.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Leonard E. Rose, Founder of the Stalag Luft IV Association.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 2nd day of May, 2006.

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Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives