

ENROLLED HOUSE
RESOLUTION NO. 1121

By: Roan, Hyman, Adkins, Armes, Askins, Auffet, Balkman, Banz, Benge, Billy, Bingman, Blackburn, Blackwell, Braddock, Brannon, Brown, Calvey, Carey, Cargill, Case, Coody, Cooksey, Covey, Cox, Dank, Denney, DePue, Deutschendorf, DeWitt, Dorman, Duncan, Eddins, Ellis, Gilbert, Glenn, Hamilton, Harrison, Hastings, Hickman, Hiett, Hilliard, 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, 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 commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Red River Bridge War; commending the actions of Governor William Henry "Alfalfa Bill" Murray; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, July 24, 2006, is the 75th anniversary of the Red River Bridge War between Oklahoma and Texas; and

WHEREAS, Governor William Henry "Alfalfa Bill" Murray, the Sage of Tishomingo, successfully defended the Great State of Oklahoma from malicious attempts by Texas corporations to manipulate the federal courts into usurping states' rights; and

WHEREAS, the Red River Bridge War came about when Texas and Oklahoma built three free highway bridges across the Red River at Ryan, Oklahoma, and at Denison and Gainesville, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the owners of the toll bridges located at Denison and Gainesville obtained an injunction against the State of Texas, from which they had received their charters, to prevent the opening of the free bridges; and

WHEREAS, when the Texas governor refused to open the free bridges, Governor "Alfalfa Bill" Murray declared that Oklahoma had

the right to open the bridges because according to the Louisiana Purchase Treaty of 1803, Oklahoma held title to both sides of the Red River; and

WHEREAS, on July 16, 1931, Governor "Alfalpa Bill" Murray, firmly grounded in his knowledge of constitutional law, issued an executive order opening the three bridges thereby disregarding a federal restraining order; and

WHEREAS, on July 18th, Ross Sterling, the Governor of Texas, sent companies of Texas Rangers to keep the Texas end of the free bridges closed, prompting "Alfalpa Bill" to ask the women of both states to meet at the bridges, cross them, and hold quilting bees, expressing his doubt that the Rangers would fire on them; and

WHEREAS, on July 24th, Governor "Alfalpa Bill" Murray called upon the Oklahoma National Guard to protect the interests of Oklahoma and established martial law around the bridges; and

WHEREAS, Governor "Alfalpa Bill" Murray was quoted as telling the guardsmen: "You fellows be easy on Mr. Sterling's Rangers; don't be too rough. Just take their guns and tobacco and give them a light kick in the pants if you have to"; and

WHEREAS, the guardsmen, under the leadership of Governor "Alfalpa Bill" Murray, opened the free bridges without the loss of a single life or casualty and forced the federal court in Texas to rescind its order closing the bridges.

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 commemorates July 24th, 2006, as the 75th anniversary of the Red River Bridge War.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives commends the actions of Governor William H. "Alfalpa Bill" Murray to uphold states' rights.

THAT a copy of this resolution be dispatched to the Johnston County Historical and Genealogical Society Museum.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 18th day of May,
2006.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives