

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

HOUSE  
RESOLUTION 1122

By: Ellis

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution commending Trooper Joe Standridge as 2005 Highway Users Federation Heroism Award recipient; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2005, at approximately 6:00 p.m., Trooper Joe Standridge made a traffic stop on US-259 just north of the US-70 bypass in McCurtain County. The vehicle was a van pulling a motorcycle on a small trailer; and

WHEREAS, upon contact with the driver, the driver provided an Alabama driver license. As Trooper Standridge confirmed information a second time with the suspect and ran the driver license record, it was determined that the driver was listed in the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) database as wanted, armed and dangerous; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Standridge contacted the McCurtain County Sheriff's Office to request backup, whereupon Sheriff Johnny Tadlock and Undersheriff Kevin Clardy responded in one unit to his location; and

WHEREAS, upon the arrival of backup, a felony stop procedure was initiated with Trooper Standridge ordering the driver to step out of the vehicle. The driver refused to get out and sped away. As the vehicle fled, Trooper Standridge fired two rounds at the tire of the vehicle in an attempt to keep a pursuit from entering into the city of Broken Bow. During the pursuit, the Broken Bow Police Department set up two different road blocks, deploying stop sticks and deflating the fleeing vehicle's tires. The vehicle finally stopped

on the south edge of Broken Bow where Trooper Standridge and other law enforcement units took up their positions; and

WHEREAS, the driver of the van retrieved an assault rifle and began firing shots in the direction of Trooper Standridge. The rounds struck the ground in front of Trooper Standridge, who had taken a cover position behind the door of his patrol car. As Trooper Standridge returned fire from his rifle, he struck the subject in the left wrist whereupon he quit firing. Trooper Standridge ordered him out of the vehicle, the subject threw down his rifle, got out of the van onto the ground, and was taken into custody; and

WHEREAS, during the search of the subject, Trooper Standridge turned up a .22 magnum pistol in his rear pants pocket. A female passenger in the van was not injured and was also taken into custody; and

WHEREAS, in the course of the investigation, it was determined that the driver was a member of an outlaw motorcycle gang and had been indicted in the eastern district of Texas by a federal grand jury for: Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine, Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana, and Possession of Firearms during Drug Trafficking; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the assault rifle that was used to fire upon Trooper Standridge and other officers, the .22 magnum pistol in the subject's rear pants pocket, a shotgun, a .357 magnum hand gun, ammunition, about 99 grams of methamphetamine, 1 pound of marijuana, a police scanner, scales, and clear plastic bags were found in the subject's van; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Standridge's life and the lives of the other officers who came in contact with these subjects were in great jeopardy; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Standridge's action of returning fire upon the assailant, in the face of grave danger to himself, brought the

potentially deadly encounter to a close with no injury to officers or civilians.

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 commends and congratulates Trooper Joe Standridge for his dedication and heroism that led to him being named the 2005 Highway Users Federation Heroism Award recipient and for his continued service to protecting the citizens of Oklahoma.

THAT copies of this resolution be dispatched to Trooper Joe Standridge and to Oklahoma Department of Public Safety Commissioner Kevin Ward.

50-2-10192      BW      05/10/06