

1 ENGROSSED HOUSE
2 CONCURRENT
3 RESOLUTION NO. 1030

By: Wesselhoft, Adkins, Armes, Auffet,
Banz, Benge, BigHorse, Billy,
Blackwell, Braddock, Brannon, Brown,
Cannaday, Carey, Cargill, Collins,
Coody, Cooksey, Covey, Cox, Dank,
Denney, Derby, DeWitt, Dorman, Duncan,
Ellis, Enns, Faught, Gilbert, Glenn,
Hamilton, Harrison, Hickman, Hilliard,
Hoskin, Hyman, Ingmire, Inman, Jackson,
Jett, Johnson (Dennis), Johnson (Rob),
Jones, Jordan, Joyner, Kern, Key,
Kiesel, Lamons, Liebmann, Lindley,
Luttrell, Martin (Scott), Martin
(Steve), McAffrey, McCarter,
McCullough, McDaniel (Jeannie),
McDaniel (Randy), McMullen, McNiel,
McPeak, Miller, Morgan, Morrissette,
Morphey, Nations, Peters, Peterson
(Pam), Peterson (Ron), Piatt, Pittman,
Proctor, Pruett, Renegar, Reynolds,
Richardson, Roan, Rousselot, Schwartz,
Sears, Shannon, Shelton, Sherrer,
Shoemake, Shumate, Smithson, Steele,
Sullivan, Terrill, Thompson, Thomsen,
Tibbs, Trebilcock, Turner, Walker,
Watson, Winchester, Worthen and Wright
of the House

16 and

17 Eason McIntyre of the Senate

18
19
20 A Concurrent Resolution declaring November 16, 2007,
21 as Oklahoma's 100th birthday; cherishing and
22 reflecting on Oklahoma's first one hundred years; and
23 directing distribution.
24

1 WHEREAS, Oklahoma, for more than her century's formal
2 existence, has become a symbol of great promise achieved through
3 arduous work! Her courageous and tenacious inhabitants, with
4 unmatched survival skills, have been endued with a great pioneering
5 spirit. It is with such qualities that we approach our state's
6 centennial, and with such advantages that we go forward in the next
7 century to even greater accomplishments; and

8 WHEREAS, Oklahoma is larger than many of the great nations of
9 the planet, including Belgium, the Netherlands, Greece, Ireland or
10 Great Britain; and

11 WHEREAS, in earlier centuries, Spain, France and England laid
12 claim to what is now Oklahoma. Fourteen flags would eventually fly
13 over our red clay land; and

14 WHEREAS, several Indian tribes, including the Quapaw, Choctaw
15 and Osage, rightfully laid claim to areas of the future State of
16 Oklahoma. The Osage in northeastern Oklahoma's tall grass prairies;
17 Quapaw in eastern Oklahoma, ravaged by measles, smallpox and other
18 European diseases; the Wichita and Caddo in the southwest; and the
19 Plains Apache and Comanche living in western Oklahoma all lived here
20 and worked the land; and

21 WHEREAS, the Indian tribes and white settlers established farms
22 and towns, and trappers and traders came here to hunt fur-bearing
23 animals which they supplied to both Indians and others; and

24

1 WHEREAS, with the forced removal of the Five Civilized Tribes
2 from the eastern states, the Choctaw, Cherokee, Creek, Chickasaw and
3 Seminole made their new home in Indian Territory. Later, many other
4 tribes including, but not limited to, the Cheyenne, Arapaho,
5 Comanche, Kiowa, Apache, Ponca, Tonkawa, Sac and Fox, Pottawatomie,
6 Shawnee, Iowa, and Kickapoo made their home in the future state and
7 would have many towns, cities and counties named on their behalf;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, the pressure to open unoccupied Indian land to white
10 settlement grew steadily from the end of the Civil War until the
11 first land run of 1889; and

12 WHEREAS, the Land Run started at high noon on April 22, 1889,
13 with an estimated 50,000 people lined up for their piece of the
14 available 2,000,000 acres (3,125 square miles; 8,093 square
15 kilometers); and

16 WHEREAS, by the end of April 22, both Oklahoma City and Guthrie
17 had established cities of around 10,000 people in literally half a
18 day. As *Harpers Weekly* put it: "Unlike Rome, the city of Guthrie
19 was built in a day. To be strictly accurate in the matter, it might
20 be said that it was built in an afternoon. At twelve o'clock on
21 Monday, April 22d, the resident population of Guthrie was nothing;
22 before sundown it was at least ten thousand. In that time streets
23 had been laid out, town lots staked off, and steps taken toward the
24 formation of a municipal government"; and

1 WHEREAS, many settlers immediately started improving their new
2 land or stood in line waiting to file their claim. Many children
3 sold creek water to homesteaders waiting in line for five cents a
4 cup, while other children gathered buffalo chips to provide fuel for
5 cooking. By the second week, schools had opened and were being
6 taught by volunteers paid by pupils' parents until regular school
7 districts could be established. Within one month, Oklahoma City had
8 five banks and six newspapers; and

9 WHEREAS, the Land Run of 1889 was the first land run into the
10 Unassigned Lands which included all or part of the modern-day
11 Canadian, Cleveland, Kingfisher, Logan, Oklahoma, and Payne counties
12 of Oklahoma; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1890, Congress designated the land as the "Twin
14 Territories" of Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory; and

15 WHEREAS, Oklahoma's present state government had its beginning
16 during the territorial period. The guide for forming a government
17 for Oklahoma Territory was a law passed by Congress in 1890, the
18 Oklahoma Organic Act. This law provided for a Governor, a
19 Secretary, and a Supreme Court of three judges. President Benjamin
20 Harrison appointed these officials. The act provided for a
21 legislature and a congressional delegate to be elected by the voters
22 of Oklahoma Territory; and

23 WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Organic Act divided Oklahoma Territory
24 into temporary counties, provided for county and town governments,

1 and required the territorial capital be located in Guthrie.
2 President Benjamin Harrison appointed Republican George W. Steele of
3 Indiana to be the first governor of Oklahoma Territory; and

4 WHEREAS, for several years, land runs brought thousands of
5 people to Indian Territory seeking a better life, including nearly a
6 thousand black pioneers. In the years before and especially after
7 the great land runs, nearly fifty black towns dotted the future
8 state. On horseback and on foot, African-Americans sought
9 opportunity and refuge from oppression; and

10 WHEREAS, most of the early settlers of the future State of
11 Oklahoma, whether Indian, white or black, were primarily interested
12 in agricultural activities. These arduous workers would eventually
13 turn a hard land into the foundation for the great economy of the
14 state. "We know we belong to the land and the land we belong to is
15 grand" is true to life; and

16 WHEREAS, Oklahoma has long been one of the principal petroleum
17 and natural gas-producing states of the nation. Many maps made by
18 early explorers and settlers identified several places as oil
19 springs. Today, there are a number of giant oil and gas fields and
20 their worth greatly enriches our economy and state; and

21 WHEREAS, other assets, such as aviation, would come to enrich
22 the future state. Oklahoma's pioneering aviators and her recent
23 cadre of astronauts make Oklahoma's contribution to aviation one of
24 the greatest in the nation; and

1 WHEREAS, during the territorial period, the Oklahoma
2 Legislature established the foundation of the future state's
3 government. Laws adopted by the territorial Legislature created
4 counties and courts, established the system of public schools, and
5 began formation of the Oklahoma university and college system. The
6 first territorial Legislature created three institutions of higher
7 learning: the University of Oklahoma at Norman, the Oklahoma
8 Agricultural and Mechanical College at Stillwater, and the Oklahoma
9 Normal School at Edmond. The Normal School would train teachers for
10 the public schools of Oklahoma Territory; and

11 WHEREAS, white settlers were eager for statehood and held
12 conventions each year. However, Congress did not act on Oklahoma
13 statehood because most congressmen believed Oklahoma Territory
14 should be joined with Indian Territory to form a single, large
15 state. Until this was done, Congress refused to take any final
16 action on Oklahoma statehood. In 1893, Congress passed a law that
17 extended the Dawes Allotment Act to the Five Civilized Tribes. By
18 1902, the Dawes Commission had signed allotment agreements with all
19 of the Five Civilized Tribes and began to assign allotments. There
20 were no surplus lands for homesteaders; and

21 WHEREAS, the Curtis Act, passed by Congress in 1898, ended
22 tribal rule. The Curtis Act substituted federal law for the laws of
23 the Indian governments. It provided for the surveying of townships,
24 and it extended voting rights to more than half a million non-Indian

1 permit holders. The Curtis Act abolished tribal courts and made
2 Indian citizens subject to federal courts. With allotment completed
3 and tribal governments abolished, statehood was possible; and

4 WHEREAS, leaders of the Five Civilized Tribes opposed joining
5 Oklahoma Territory. They wanted to form an all-Indian state named
6 "Sequoyah." Leaders of the Five Civilized Tribes met at Muskogee in
7 1905, and Creek Chief Pleasant Porter was elected president of the
8 Sequoyah Convention. Alexander Posey, Creek poet and journalist,
9 was elected secretary. The delegates wrote a constitution for the
10 proposed state of Sequoyah. It was approved by the voters of Indian
11 Territory, but Congress refused to consider it. They were preparing
12 to join the Twin territories, Oklahoma Territory and Indian
13 Territory, to form the State of Oklahoma; and

14 WHEREAS, after much political wrangling, on June 16, 1906,
15 Congress passed the Oklahoma Enabling Act. It permitted the people
16 of Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory to join and write a
17 constitution and seek admission as the 46th state of the Union; and

18 WHEREAS, the Constitutional Convention was to meet in Guthrie,
19 and was to consist of 112 delegates. Fifty-five delegates were to
20 be elected from Oklahoma Territory, fifty-five were to be elected
21 from Indian Territory, and two delegates were to be elected from
22 Osage Nation; and

23 WHEREAS, during the summer of 1906, voters in the Twin
24 Territories elected Convention delegates. Democrat delegates won

1 one hundred of the Convention seats, while Republicans won twelve;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, the Convention convened November 20, 1906. Democrat
4 William H. "Alfalfa Bill" Murray was elected president, or chairman,
5 of the Convention. Murray was a powerful influence in the
6 Convention partly because of his role in the ill-fated Sequoyah
7 Convention. Murray's majority floor leader was Charles N. Haskell.
8 The Republican leader in the Convention was Henry Asp; and

9 WHEREAS, experts in every area of government appeared before
10 the delegates. The only woman allowed to speak to the Convention
11 was Kate Barnard, a five-foot, 90-pound social reformer who wrote
12 the child labor and mine safety provisions of the proposed
13 constitution. She would honor her state by becoming the first
14 woman in the United States to be elected to a statewide office. Her
15 work made possible social reforms, including the eight-hour workday
16 in mines and on public works; and the forbidding of child labor; and

17 WHEREAS, delegates worked through the winter and drafted a
18 Constitution that created three departments for the new government.
19 The executive branch consisted of a Governor and eleven other
20 executive officials. The legislative branch consisted of a House of
21 Representatives and a Senate. The judicial branch was to be made up
22 of a Supreme Court, district courts, county courts, and municipal
23 courts; and

24

1 WHEREAS, the new Constitution included provisions for
2 initiative and referendum. Citizens could propose laws and could
3 vote in laws submitted to them by the Legislature. Prohibition,
4 banning the sale of alcoholic beverages, was included. The
5 Constitution as a document was second in length only to Louisiana's
6 Constitution among the states and far exceeded the length of the
7 United States Constitution; and

8 WHEREAS, an election in the Twin Territories was held on
9 September 17, 1907, and the people approved the Constitution and
10 elected Charles N. Haskell as the state's first Governor, upon
11 approval of the U.S. Congress. The Constitution was sent to
12 Washington, D. C., and after some study, Congress approved it on
13 November 16, 1907, making Oklahoma the 46th state; and

14 WHEREAS, Oklahomans are very proud of our first one hundred
15 years of statehood.

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
17 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 51ST OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE
18 CONCURRING THEREIN:

19 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature does hereby declare November 16,
20 2007, as Oklahoma's 100th birthday.

21 THAT Oklahomans are called upon to cherish and reflect on the
22 state's first one hundred years, and they have a responsibility to
23 teach our state's history to others.

24

1 THAT we must look with optimism, hope, and vision toward our
2 next 100 years.

3 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Governor Brad
4 Henry, Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins, all members of the Oklahoma
5 Congressional delegation, and the Oklahoma Historical Society.

6 Adopted by the House of Representatives the 25th day of May,
7 2007.

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10 Presiding Officer of the House of
11 Representatives

12 Adopted by the Senate the ____ day of _____, 2007.

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15 Presiding Officer of the Senate
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