

ENROLLED HOUSE  
RESOLUTION NO. 1072

By: McPeak, 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, Miller, Morgan, Morrissette, Murphey, Nations, Peters, Peterson (Pam), Peterson (Ron), Piatt, Pittman, Proctor, Pruett, Renegar, Reynolds, Richardson, Roan, Roussetot, Schwartz, Sears, Shannon, Shelton, Sherrer, Shoemake, Shumate, Smithson, Steele, Sullivan, Terrill, Thompson, Thomsen, Tibbs, Trebilcock, Turner, Walker, Watson, Wesselhoft, Winchester, Worthen and Wright

A Resolution honoring and expressing appreciation for the living original Dawes Rolls enrollees; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Oklahoma is a state with a rich native American history and culture that is intertwined into the current cultural identity of the state; and

WHEREAS, a significant event in the shaping of Oklahoma as a state was the enactment of the Dawes Allotment Act by Congress in 1887 which provided for dividing the tribal reservations, with each tribal member assigned a one-hundred-sixty-acre homestead allotment and with any remaining land declared surplus and open to settlement; and

WHEREAS, in 1893 Congress passed a law that extended the Dawes Allotment Act to the Five Civilized Tribes which consists of the Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Seminole and Chickasaw Indians; and

WHEREAS, the Dawes Commission was organized in 1893 and accepted applications for tribal enrollment between 1899 and 1907 from American Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes who resided in the Indian Territory, which later became the eastern portion of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, eventually over one hundred thousand persons were listed on the tribal membership rolls created by the Dawes Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Dawes Rolls remain important today as several tribes use descent from Dawes Rolls members as a requirement for tribal membership and the federal government uses the rolls in determining status for Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood; and

WHEREAS, of the thousands of original enrollees listed on the Dawes Rolls, only a few are still living, including Daisy Hawley Blackbird, Asa Glenn Purcell, Dorothy Arnote West, Irene Exodus Roberts Mills, Martha Berryhill, Georgia Mae Roebuck Self, Eva Cheek Gilbert and Ruby Lee Trammell Brewer; and

WHEREAS, Daisy Hawley Blackbird, a Chickasaw original enrollee, was born January 18, 1903, in Tupelo, Indian Territory, to Arthur E. and Elizabeth Hawley. After spending her early years on the farm she became a career woman, teaching school in Coalgate and Tupelo, and later taking a job as a clerk for the Oklahoma Supreme Court where she met and later married Justice William H. Blackbird. Mrs. Blackbird currently resides in Oklahoma City; and

WHEREAS, Asa Glenn Purcell, a Cherokee original enrollee, was born July 26, 1905, in Big Cabin, Indian Territory, to Charles and Amanda Purcell. After graduating from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in the brand-new field of Chemical Engineering he began working for Shell Oil. He married Mary Ellen Stephensen in

1931 and together they had three children. After retiring from Shell in 1961 he was elected to the Texas State Legislature in 1968 as the first Republican from his district in more than one hundred years. Mr. Purcell currently resides in Houston, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Dorothy Arnote West, a Choctaw original enrollee, was born August 2, 1902, in Antlers, Indian Territory, to Andrew and Anniee Taaffee Arnote. After graduating from Antlers High School, she attended and received her degree in Economics from the University of Oklahoma. Upon graduation she worked as a reporter for the Anadarko Tribune where she met and married Powell West; together they had three children. Mrs. West was also a reporter for the Daily Oklahoman and the Shawnee American and later taught at Moyers School. Mrs. West currently resides in Antlers, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Irene Exodus Roberts Mills, a Choctaw original enrollee, was born January 31, 1905, in Quinton, Indian Territory. Except for an eight-year span, Mrs. Mills has lived in Oklahoma all her life. At 103 she still loves to read, reading the newspaper everyday, to play dominoes and bingo, and is very proud of her Indian heritage. Mrs. Mills currently resides in Quinton, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Martha Berryhill, a Muscogee Creek original enrollee, was born July 12, 1900, in Indian Territory, to Reverend Harrison Logan Berryhill and Bettie Burgess Berryhill. Ms. Berryhill married John Parker Haynes, and together they had four children. Ms. Berryhill was a homemaker who loved to sew quilts and cook and was fluent in her native tongue, the Creek language. Ms. Berryhill currently resides in Okmulgee, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Georgia Mae Roebuck Self, a Choctaw original enrollee, was born in 1905, in Indian Territory, to David Roebuck and Elizabeth Underwood Roebuck. Mrs. Self was a longtime member of the Methodist Church in Antlers and worked for years in the Court Clerk's Office in Pushmataha County. Mrs. Self was married to Chester Self. Mrs. Self currently resides in Antlers, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Eva Cheek Gilbert, a Cherokee original enrollee, was born June 25, 1902, in Adkins, Indian Territory, to John Douglas Cheek and Rose Ella Miller. Mrs. Gilbert attended the Cherokee Seminary for Young Women and graduated from Sallisaw High School in 1922. After graduation she moved to Tulsa where she took business classes and worked. She married Ralph Gilbert in 1924 and together

they had two children. Mrs. Gilbert has lived in Tulsa and Dallas, and spent a year in Italy. Mrs. Gilbert currently resides in Vian, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Ruby Lee Trammell Brewer, a Choctaw original enrollee, was born February 7, 1906, in Indian Territory, to Tom Trammell and Lillie B Burkes Trammell. Mrs. Brewer was the third oldest of thirteen children and grew up taking care of her siblings, picking cotton, cutting broom corn, and doing whatever it took to get by. She married Ulysses Grant "Bud" Brewer in 1925 and together they had two children. Mrs. Brewer still lives on the land she receive from her allotment in the house her late husband built. Mrs. Brewer currently lives in Rush Springs, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, the remaining original enrollees are living treasures for Oklahoma and are links to our rich history and culture.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 51ST OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives honors, values, and appreciates the contributions that all the living original enrollees have made to our state, including Daisy Hawley Blackbird, Asa Glenn Purcell, Dorothy Arnote West, Irene Exodus Roberts Mills, Martha Berryhill, Georgia Mae Roebuck Self, Eva Cheek Gilbert and Ruby Lee Trammell Brewer.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to Daisy Hawley Blackbird, Asa Glenn Purcell, Dorothy Arnote West, Irene Exodus Roberts Mills, Martha Berryhill, Georgia Mae Roebuck Self, Eva Cheek Gilbert, Ruby Lee Trammell Brewer, the Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, the Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, and the Principal Chief of the Muscogee Creek Nation.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 12th day of May,  
2008.

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Presiding Officer of the House of  
Representatives