

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 51st Legislature (2007)

3 HOUSE

4 RESOLUTION 1039

By: Denney

5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution declaring May 9, 2007, as Charles Banks  
8 Wilson Day; and directing distribution.

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10 WHEREAS, it has been said that if Oklahoma has a state artist,  
11 it is Charles Banks Wilson; and

12 WHEREAS, Charles Banks Wilson grew up in Miami, Oklahoma, and  
13 studied painting, watercolor, and lithography at the Art Institute  
14 of Chicago; and

15 WHEREAS, while in Chicago, Wilson was inspired by his  
16 classmates' curiosity in his home state to begin sketching and  
17 painting pictures of Native Americans; and

18 WHEREAS, his work has resulted in images of more than one  
19 hundred individuals from sixty-five tribes, in pictures such as  
20 "Medicine Singers," "Birthright," and "The Ribbon Bets," "Cherokee  
21 Matriarch," "Katie 'Osage' Cheyenne," and "Osage Orator"; and

22 WHEREAS, Wilson returned to Oklahoma during World War II and  
23 began teaching classes at Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, where  
24

1 he established the art department and served as its head for fifteen  
2 years; and

3 WHEREAS, Wilson has painted full-time since 1960, spending much  
4 of his career painting documentary portraits of Oklahomans; and

5 WHEREAS, Wilson was commissioned to paint portraits of Will  
6 Rogers, Sequoyah, Robert Henry, Jim Thorpe, Woody Guthrie and four  
7 murals of state history for the Oklahoma State Capitol rotunda; and

8 WHEREAS, to honor his promise to his Native American models that  
9 he would never sell their images, Wilson donated the collection of  
10 originals to the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In return,  
11 the Gilcrease established an internship in the museum for students  
12 of Native American ancestry in Wilson's name; and

13 WHEREAS, he is a Fellow of the International Institute of Arts  
14 and Letters of Geneva, Switzerland, a member of the Oklahoma Hall of  
15 Fame, and a recipient of the Western Heritage Award from the Cowboy  
16 Hall of Fame. He was also named an Oklahoma Treasure by the  
17 Governor's Arts Awards in 2001.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
19 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 51ST OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

20 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives declares May 9, 2007,  
21 as Charles Banks Wilson Day.

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1            THAT a copy of this resolution be dispatched to Charles Banks  
2 Wilson.

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4            51-1-7977            JJB            05/08/07

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