

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 51st Legislature (2008)

3 HOUSE

4 RESOLUTION 1072

By: McPeak

5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

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

10  
11 WHEREAS, Oklahoma is a state with a rich native American history  
12 and culture that is intertwined into the current cultural identity  
13 of the state; and

14 WHEREAS, a significant event in the shaping of Oklahoma as a  
15 state was the enactment of the Dawes Allotment Act by Congress in  
16 1887 which provided for dividing the tribal reservations, with each  
17 tribal member assigned a one-hundred-sixty-acre homestead allotment  
18 and with any remaining land declared surplus and open to settlement;  
19 and

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

23 WHEREAS, the Dawes Commission was organized in 1893 and accepted  
24 applications for tribal enrollment between 1899 and 1907 from

1 American Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes who resided in the  
2 Indian Territory, which later became the eastern portion of  
3 Oklahoma; and

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

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, Asa Glenn Purcell, a Cherokee original enrollee, was  
24 born July 26, 1905, in Big Cabin, Indian Territory, to Charles and

1 Amanda Purcell. After graduating from the University of Oklahoma  
2 with a degree in the brand-new field of Chemical Engineering he  
3 began working for Shell Oil. He married Mary Ellen Stephensen in  
4 1931 and together they had three children. After retiring from  
5 Shell in 1961 he was elected to the Texas State Legislature in 1968  
6 as the first Republican from his district in more than one hundred  
7 years. Mr. Purcell currently resides in Houston, Texas; and

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

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

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

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

14           WHEREAS, Eva Cheek Gilbert, a Cherokee original enrollee, was  
15 born June 25, 1902, in Adkins, Indian Territory, to John Douglas  
16 Cheek and Rose Ella Miller. Mrs. Gilbert attended the Cherokee  
17 Seminary for Young Women and graduated from Sallisaw High School in  
18 1922. After graduation she moved to Tulsa where she took business  
19 classes and worked. She married Ralph Gilbert in 1924 and together  
20 they had two children. Mrs. Gilbert has lived in Tulsa and Dallas,  
21 and spent a year in Italy. Mrs. Gilbert currently resides in Vian,  
22 Oklahoma; and

23           WHEREAS, Ruby Lee Trammell Brewer, a Choctaw original enrollee,  
24 was born February 7, 1906, in Indian Territory, to Tom Trammell and

1 Lillie B Burkes Trammell. Mrs. Brewer was the third oldest of  
2 thirteen children and grew up taking care of her siblings, picking  
3 cotton, cutting broom corn, and doing whatever it took to get by.  
4 She married Ulysses Grant "Bud" Brewer in 1925 and together they had  
5 two children. Mrs. Brewer still lives on the land she receive from  
6 her allotment in the house her late husband built. Mrs. Brewer  
7 currently lives in Rush Springs, Oklahoma; and

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

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

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

18 THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to Daisy Hawley  
19 Blackbird, Asa Glenn Purcell, Dorothy Arnote West, Irene Exodus  
20 Roberts Mills, Martha Berryhill, Georgia Mae Roebuck Self, Eva Cheek  
21 Gilbert, Ruby Lee Trammell Brewer, the Principal Chief of the  
22 Cherokee Nation, the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, the Principal  
23  
24

1 Chief of the Choctaw Nation, and the Principal Chief of the Muscogee  
2 Creek Nation.

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