

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE CONCURRENT
4 RESOLUTION 49

5 By: Garrison, Morgan, Coffee,
6 Johnson (Constance), Eason
7 McIntyre and Rice of the
8 Senate

9 and

10 Roussetot, Shannon, Pittman
11 and Shumate of the House

12 AS INTRODUCED

13 A Concurrent Resolution repudiating Oklahoma's Jim
14 Crow laws; declaring the Oklahoma State Legislature
15 free of racial prejudice; and directing distribution.

16 WHEREAS, the Oklahoma State Legislature began its history with
17 the passage of Senate Bill No. 1, which required separate facilities
18 for blacks in public transportation, public education, and other
19 public facilities. Known as "Jim Crow" laws and etiquette, this
20 practice spread throughout the South and border states becoming a
21 pervasive part of the culture. While in theory it promised separate
22 but equal treatment of both races, in practice it was always
23 separate but never equal. During the last 50 years this extreme
24 form of racial segregation has been gradually eroded by the courts
25 prodded by the actions of civil rights organizations, such as the

1 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP);
2 and

3 WHEREAS, the NAACP, founded nationally in 1909, took root in
4 Oklahoma in 1913 when black leaders founded a local chapter in
5 Oklahoma City. By the 1920s there were more than a dozen chapters
6 in the state, and in the 1930s Oklahoma became the first state to
7 form a State Conference. Led by such famous black Oklahomans as
8 Roscoe Dunjee, Arsula Mence Sanders, Ada Lois Sipuel-Fisher, Clara
9 Luper, and other courageous individuals, too numerous to mention,
10 the NAACP, after decades of struggle, eventually triumphed with the
11 repudiation of racial segregation and the end of Jim Crow in
12 Oklahoma.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION
14 OF THE 51ST OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
15 CONCURRING THEREIN:

16 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature, at the dawn of a new
17 centennial, repudiates the concepts and ideas behind Jim Crow laws
18 passed a century ago by the Legislature and declares these laws and
19 all their vestiges abhorrent and repugnant to today's Chambers.

20 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature starts its second century
21 free from any and all racial bias or prejudice and takes this
22 opportunity to declare its intention to remain so during all future
23 operations.

24

1 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Executive
2 Director of the Oklahoma Human Rights Commission; Anthony R.
3 Douglas, State President of the Oklahoma State Conference of NAACP;
4 Carolyn Wade, President of the Muskogee Branch of the NAACP; Derrick
5 Reed, Youth Advisor of the Muskogee Branch NAACP Youth Council; and
6 Clara Luper, Oklahoma civil rights pioneer who established the
7 Freedom Center and the Freedom Center Monument.

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