

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE  
4 RESOLUTION 39

By: Wyrick

5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution recognizing the artistic ability of  
8 Charles Banks Wilson; declaring May 9, 2007, "Charles  
9 Banks Wilson Day" at the Oklahoma State Capitol; and  
10 directing distribution.

11  
12 WHEREAS, Charles Banks Wilson was born in Arkansas in 1918 but  
13 grew up in Miami, Oklahoma. In 1936 he enrolled in the Art  
14 Institute of Chicago where he studied painting, watercolor, and  
15 lithography, and where he was given an award from the Chicago  
16 Society of Lithographers and Etchers. After an apprenticeship as an  
17 illustrator at the Chicago Tribune, Charles Banks Wilson traveled to  
18 New York City to contribute to a folio prepared by the American Art  
19 Association; and

20 WHEREAS, Charles Banks Wilson returned to Oklahoma and taught  
21 classes at Northeastern A&M College. He established the Art  
22 Department there and served as its Chair for fifteen years; and

23 WHEREAS, Charles Banks Wilson has since returned to painting  
24 full time. Many of his most recognizable oil paintings and murals

1 now hang in the Oklahoma State Capitol. Commissioned by the  
2 Oklahoma State Legislature, these include life-size portraits of  
3 Will Rogers, Sequoyah, and Senator Robert S. Kerr. He later did a  
4 similar portrait of Jim Thorpe. The four portraits of important and  
5 influential Oklahomans are now positioned in each of the four sides  
6 of the fourth floor rotunda of the Oklahoma State Capitol in  
7 Oklahoma City. Wilson was again commissioned by the Oklahoma State  
8 Legislature to complete four major murals depicting state history.  
9 These are located under the Capitol dome and give four impressions  
10 of important events in the state's colorful history; and

11 WHEREAS, Charles Banks Wilson is well known for his  
12 contributions to Native American Art. His authentically rendered  
13 subjects are usually those populating Oklahoma or the Southwest and  
14 their environment. In addition to his recognition as a painter,  
15 Wilson is also recognized as an outstanding printmaker and magazine  
16 and book illustrator.

17 WHEREAS, Charles Banks Wilson has been inducted into the  
18 Oklahoma Hall of Fame and received the Oklahoma Governor's Art  
19 Award. A documentary film "Charles Banks Wilson: Portrait of an  
20 American Artist" was released last year. Wilson also received a  
21 Governor's Arts 2006 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Arkansas  
22 Arts Council. Wilson is the only artist to ever receive such an  
23 award in both Oklahoma and Arkansas. He is also an Oklahoma  
24 Treasure.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION  
2 OF THE 51ST OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

3 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes the artistic ability  
4 of Charles Banks Wilson as a leading Oklahoma and national talent,  
5 thanks him for the beauty and enlightenment he has provided to the  
6 people of Oklahoma in their State Capitol, and honors his dedication  
7 to his heritage and state.

8 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate, upon the occasion of the state's  
9 centennial, welcomes Charles Banks Wilson back to the Oklahoma State  
10 Capitol where he has labored so successfully and declares May 9,  
11 2007, "Charles Banks Wilson Day" at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

12 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Oklahoma artist  
13 Charles Banks Wilson.

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