

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 CONCURRENT
3 RESOLUTION NO. 11

By: Easley, Adelson, Aldridge,
Anderson, Ballenger,
Barrington, Bass, Bingman,
Branan, Brogdon, Brown,
Burrage, Coates, Coffee,
Corn, Crain, Crutchfield,
Eason McIntyre, Ellis,
Ford, Garrison, Gumm,
Halligan, Ivester, Johnson
(Constance), Johnson
(Mike), Jolley, Justice,
Lamb, Laster, Leftwich,
Lerblance, Marlatt,
Mazzei, Myers, Newberry,
Nichols, Paddack,
Reynolds, Rice, Russell,
Schulz, Sparks,
Stanislowski, Sweeden,
Sykes, Wilson and Wyrick
of the Senate

and

Sherrer of the House

17 A Concurrent Resolution recognizing the artistic
18 ability of Willard Stone; encouraging viewing of the
19 Stone exhibit at the Gilcrease Museum; and directing
20 distribution.

21 WHEREAS, Sculptor Willard Stone was born on February 29, 1916,
22 at Oktaha, near Muskogee, Oklahoma. He was educated in Oktaha
23 public schools. His father died when Willard was an infant, leaving
24 his mother to support the family by working as a sharecropper. As

1 an early teen, he suffered the loss of nearly half of his right hand
2 in an accident and withdrew from school. However, his natural
3 talent as a sculptor prevailed and, at the urging of his friends,
4 Stone entered his works at fairs in Muskogee and Okmulgee. Oklahoma
5 historian Grant Foreman saw Stone's work and, impressed with his
6 artistic abilities, successfully convinced the young man to enroll
7 at Bacone College; and

8 WHEREAS, Stone stayed at the school from 1936 to 1939 where he
9 was mentored by Acee Blue Eagle and Woodrow Crumbo. After leaving
10 school, Stone married and supported his family in a variety of jobs
11 until Thomas Gilcrease offered him a grant as an artist-in-residence
12 at the Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art, which still
13 houses many of his works. Even so, he had to work as a pattern
14 maker with an iron firm and as a die finisher with an aircraft firm.
15 It was not until the 1960s that Stone established his own permanent
16 studio near Locust Grove, Oklahoma, where he worked exclusively as
17 an artist; and

18 WHEREAS, Willard Stone was of one-fourth Cherokee ancestry,
19 although he was a Non-Government Enrolled Cherokee American. He was
20 proud of his Cherokee heritage and taught his family to share his
21 love for Native American culture. His work reflects pride in his
22 Native American values and love of nature; and

23 WHEREAS, Willard Stone gradually became recognized as the genius
24 with wood who knew no equal. He received and fulfilled commissions

1 for the National Hall of Fame for Famous American Indians, the
2 Oklahoma Historical Society, and the National Cowboy Hall of Fame
3 and Western Heritage Center. He illustrated "Cherokee Spirit
4 Tales"; and

5 WHEREAS, Willard Stone received the Outstanding Indian Award
6 from the Council of American Indians in Tulsa, was inducted into the
7 Oklahoma Hall of Fame, was awarded an honorary degree by Bacone
8 College, and was designated a Distinguished American Citizen and
9 awarded an honorary doctorate of humanities degree by Oklahoma
10 Christian College. The Five Civilized Tribes Museum bestowed ten
11 awards on him, including Master Artist; and

12 WHEREAS, Willard Stone died on March 5, 1985, and was buried
13 near Locust Grove in the family cemetery. The Gilcrease Museum is
14 currently showing more than 100 carvings, drawings, and photographs
15 in the exhibit, "Willard Stone: Storyteller in Wood", through June
16 21st of this year.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION
18 OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
19 CONCURRING THEREIN:

20 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature recognizes the artistic
21 ability of Willard Stone, the "Storyteller in Wood".

22 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature applauds the Gilcrease
23 Museum for their exhibit of Willard Stone's extraordinary artwork

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