

ENROLLED HOUSE
RESOLUTION NO. 1035

By: Cannaday, Shumate, Armes, Auffet,
Bailey, Banz, Benge, Billy, Blackwell,
Brannon, Brown, Buck, Carey, Christian,
Collins, Coody, Cooksey, Cox, Dank,
Denney, Derby, DeWitt, Dorman, Duncan,
Enns, Faught, Fields, Glenn, Hamilton,
Harrison, Hickman, Hilliard, Holland,
Hoskin, Inman, Jackson, Jett, Johnson,
Jones, Jordan, Joyner, Kern, Key,
Kiesel, Kirby, Kouplen, Lamons,
Liebmann, Luttrell, Martin (Scott),
Martin (Steve), McAffrey, McCullough,
McDaniel (Jeannie), McDaniel (Randy),
McMullen, McNiel, McPeak, Miller,
Moore, Morgan, Morrissette, Murphey,
Nations, Nelson, Ortega, Osborn,
Ownbey, Peters, Peterson, Pittman,
Proctor, Pruett, Renegar, Reynolds,
Richardson, Ritze, Roan, Rousselot,
Sanders, Schwartz, Scott, Sears,
Shannon, Shelton, Sherrer, Shoemake,
Smithson, Steele, Sullivan, Terrill,
Thompson, Thomsen, Tibbs, Trebilcock,
Walker, Watson, Wesselhoft, Williams,
Wright (Harold) and Wright (John)

A Resolution commending the life of John Hope
Franklin; offering condolences; and directing
distribution.

WHEREAS, John Hope Franklin, the famous United States historian,
was born on January 2, 1915, in Rentiesville, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, named after John Hope, the former president of Atlanta
University, Franklin was the son of Buck Colbert Franklin, one of

the first black lawyers in the Oklahoma Indian Territory, and Mollie Parker Franklin, a school teacher and community leader; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Tulsa, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, although he was the valedictorian of his high school class, Franklin was not allowed to enroll at the University of Oklahoma because he was African-American; and

WHEREAS, in 1931, Franklin enrolled at Fisk University, a historically black college in Nashville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, he received an undergraduate degree from Fisk University in 1935, a masters degree from Harvard University in 1936, and a doctorate in history in 1941 from Harvard University; and

WHEREAS, he married Aurelia Whittington in 1940, with whom he had a child, John Whittington Franklin, born in 1952; and

WHEREAS, in 1945, he wrote a book on African-American history originally titled *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of American Negroes*; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1950s, while serving as a professor at Howard University, Franklin traveled to Thurgood Marshall's law office to help prepare the brief that led to the historic *Brown v. Board of Education* decision; and

WHEREAS, in 1956, he became chairman of the all-white history department at Brooklyn College, and later served as a professor and chairman of the history department at the University of Chicago for 16 years; and

WHEREAS, Franklin later served as a professor of history at Duke University and also at Duke University Law School; and

WHEREAS, Franklin was a prolific writer, and has received more than 130 honorary degrees; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, the National Endowment for the Humanities selected Franklin for the Jefferson Lecture, the U.S. federal government's highest honor for achievement in the humanities; and

WHEREAS, his best-known accomplishment in his later years was in 1997, when he was appointed chairman of the advisory board for President Clinton's One America: The President's Initiative on Race; and

WHEREAS, this outstanding American passed away on March 25, 2009, at the age of 94 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives hereby commends the full life and many accomplishments of this outstanding Oklahoma-born historian, the late John Hope Franklin.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives offers its most sincere condolences to the surviving Franklin family.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to John Hope Franklin's son, John Whittington Franklin.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 8th day of April, 2009.

Presiding Officer of the House of
Representatives