

ENROLLED SENATE
CONCURRENT
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, Stanislawski,
Sweeden, Sykes, Wilson and Wyrick
of the Senate

and

Sherrer, Armes, Auffet, Bailey,
Banz, Benge, Billy, Blackwell,
Brannon, Brown, Buck, Cannaday,
Carey, Christian, Collins, Coody,
Cooksey, Cox, Dank, Denney, Derby,
DeWitt, Dorman, Duncan, Enns,
Faight, 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,
Shoemake, Shumate, Smithson,
Steele, Sullivan, Terrill,
Thompson, Thomsen, Tibbs,
Trebilcock, Walker, Watson,
Wesselhoft, Williams, Wright
(Harold) and Wright (John) of the
House

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

WHEREAS, Sculptor Willard Stone was born on February 29, 1916, at Oktaha, near Muskogee, Oklahoma. He was educated in Oktaha public schools. His father died when Willard was an infant, leaving his mother to support the family by working as a sharecropper. As an early teen, he suffered the loss of nearly half of his right hand in an accident and withdrew from school. However, his natural talent as a sculptor prevailed and, at the urging of his friends, Stone entered his works at fairs in Muskogee and Okmulgee. Oklahoma historian Grant Foreman saw Stone's work and, impressed with his artistic abilities, successfully convinced the young man to enroll at Bacone College; and

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

studio near Locust Grove, Oklahoma, where he worked exclusively as an artist; and

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

WHEREAS, Willard Stone gradually became recognized as the genius with wood who knew no equal. He received and fulfilled commissions for the National Hall of Fame for Famous American Indians, the Oklahoma Historical Society, and the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center. He illustrated "Cherokee Spirit Tales"; and

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

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

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

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

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature applauds the Gilcrease Museum for their exhibit of Willard Stone's extraordinary artwork and encourages all Oklahomans to view this tribute to one of Oklahoma's most famous gifted artists.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Gilcrease Museum in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and the Willard Stone Museum in Locust Grove, Oklahoma.

Adopted by the Senate the 29th day of April, 2009.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 4th day of May, 2009.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives