

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 105

By: Eason McIntyre, Halligan,
Johnson (Constance), Coffee,
Adelson, Aldridge, Anderson,
Ballenger, Barrington, Bass,
Bingman, Branan, Brogdon,
Brown, Burrage, Coates, Corn,
Crain, Crutchfield, Easley,
Ellis, Ford, Garrison, Gumm,
Ivester, 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

A Resolution praising the public service of Currie Ballard; congratulating him upon his induction into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Currie D. Ballard was born on May 25, 1958, in Los Angeles, California. His ancestors were slaves of the Choctaw Indians in Oklahoma and he is the descendent of the two slaves, Wallace and Minerva Willis, who wrote the song "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot". Mr. Ballard grew up in the Watts area of Los Angeles, California, raised by his grandparents because both of his parents were in prison. He frequented the Southern Area Boys Club on 120th Street where he learned self-respect; and

WHEREAS, Currie Ballard has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Langston University. From 1993 to 2006, Currie Ballard was the Historian-in-Residence at Langston University. In 2009, he was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Oklahoma State Senate; and

WHEREAS, Currie Ballard has been collecting African American artifacts and documents for more than thirty years. "The Ebony Chronicles" won him a Regional Emmy award for best historical documentary; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, Currie Ballard was appointed by President George W. Bush to a Presidential Commission to build an African American Museum in Washington, D.C. In 2005, he was appointed by Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert to a Special Task Force to Study the History and Contributions of Slave Laborers in the Construction of the U.S. Capitol; and

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2010, Currie Ballard will be inducted into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate praises the public service and many accomplishments of Assistant Secretary of the Oklahoma State Senate Currie Ballard.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate congratulates Currie Ballard upon his induction into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Currie D. Ballard and the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Adopted by the Senate the 29th day of April, 2010.

Presiding Officer of the Senate