

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 19

By: Sweeden, Burrage, Corn,
Ballenger, Eason McIntyre,
Adelson, Aldridge, Anderson,
Barrington, Bass, Bingman,
Branan, Brogdon, Brown,
Coates, Coffee, Crain,
Crutchfield, Easley, 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,
Sykes, Wilson and Wyrick

A Resolution endorsing the selection of Oklahoma as site of the 2009 PRCA Clem McSpadden National Finals Steer Roping Rodeo; urging the PRCA to schedule Oklahoma as the official location for this event; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the first rodeo was held on July 4, 1869, when two groups of cowboys from neighboring ranches in Colorado held a contest to determine which group was better at performing ranching tasks. In 1936 a group of cowboys formed the Cowboy's Turtle Association. It was named "Turtles" because the cowboys, although slow to organize, were willing to stick their necks out to get ahead. In 1945 the Turtles renamed themselves the Rodeo Cowboys Association (RCA) and in 1975 it became what is known today as the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA); and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma's own Clem McSpadden served as PRCA announcer for ABC's "Wide World of Sports" from 1961 through 1965. Clem McSpadden also served as President of the Rodeo Cowboys Association from 1970 through 1971. Senator Clem McSpadden served in this distinguished body from 1955-1972, holding the office of President Pro Tempore for two terms. Clem McSpadden began a roping contest at his Bushyhead Ranch from 1975 to 1983 when it became a Labor Day pasture event; and

WHEREAS, the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, America's premier institution of Western history, art, and culture is located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Its Rodeo Hall of Fame is a tribute to rodeo's greatest legends. The American Rodeo Gallery educates visitors from around the world on the history of the sport. More than 10 million visitors have viewed this unique museum. The National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum recognized Clem McSpadden with the Chester A. Reynolds Memorial Award in 2007; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma is also home to Tinker Air Force Base which includes the 507th Air Refueling Wing (ARW), an Air Force Reserve unit. Approximately 1,200 men and women reservists serve their country as members of the 507th ARW or 513th Air Control Group. The Air Force Reserve is an official sponsor of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma, should it host the PRCA National Finals Steer Roping Rodeo this fall (which could be renamed the PRCA Clem McSpadden National Finals Steer Roping Rodeo), would welcome up to 10,000 visitors, many from out of state. This event would not only add an enormous fiscal impact on the economy, but would also honor Clem McSpadden, boost interest in the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, and recognize the Air Force Reserve as an official PRCA sponsor.

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

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate endorses the selection of Oklahoma as site of the 2009 PRCA Clem McSpadden National Finals Steer Roping Rodeo.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate urges the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) to schedule Oklahoma as the official location for this year's event.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to PRCA Commissioner Karl Stressman and PRCA Director of Rodeo Administration Aaron Enget; Bart McSpadden, son of Senator Clem McSpadden; Chuck Schroeder at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum; and Colonel Jeffrey R. Glass, Commander, 507th Air Refueling Wing.

Adopted by the Senate the 12th day of March, 2009.

Presiding Officer of the Senate