

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, April 07, 2010

House Resolution No. 1080

HR 1080

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1080 - By: HOSKIN AND BROWN of the House.

A Resolution commending the life of Wilma Mankiller; offering condolences; and directing distribution.

1 WHEREAS, Wilma Mankiller was born at Hastings Indian Hospital in Tahlequah,
2 Oklahoma, in 1945, and grew up with few amenities; and

3 WHEREAS, at the age of 10, Wilma Mankiller and her family moved to San
4 Francisco, California, as part of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Relocation Program where
5 she lived for two decades before returning to Oklahoma in 1977; and

6 WHEREAS, Mankiller lived on the Mankiller family allotment in the Cherokee
7 Nation with her husband, Charlie Soap; and

8 WHEREAS, Mankiller was the mother of two daughters, Gina and Felicia; and

9 WHEREAS, her roots were planted deep in the rural community of Mankiller Flats
10 in Adair County, Oklahoma, where she spent most of her life; and

11 WHEREAS, Wilma Mankiller was the founding director of the Cherokee Nation
12 Community Development Department, which received several national awards for
13 innovative use of self-help in housing and water projects for low-income Cherokee
14 communities; and

1 WHEREAS, in 1983, Mankiller was elected the first female deputy chief of the
2 Cherokee Nation and president of the tribal council; and

3 WHEREAS, In 1987, Mankiller was elected to serve as the first female Principal
4 Chief of the Cherokee Nation, she was overwhelmingly re-elected in 1991 and chose not
5 to seek re-election in 1995; and

6 WHEREAS, during her 10-year tenure as principal chief, Mankiller met with
7 Presidents Regan, Bush and Clinton to present critical tribal issues, and she and Navajo
8 Nation President Peterson Zah cochaired a national conference between tribal leaders
9 and cabinet members which helped facilitate the establishment of an Office of Indian
10 Justice within the United States Department of Justice; and

11 WHEREAS, her tenure was marked by a great deal of new development, including
12 several new free-standing health clinics, an \$11-million Job Corps Center, and greatly
13 expanded services for children and youth; and

14 WHEREAS, Mankiller also led the team that developed the core businesses which
15 comprise the Cherokee Nation Enterprises; and

16 WHEREAS, Mankiller received many awards and honors, including the
17 Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Clinton; and

18 WHEREAS, Mankiller was also an author, publishing several works including
19 *Every Day is a Good Day* in 2004, *Mankiller: A Chief and Her People* in 1993, *A Readers*
20 *Companion to the History of Women in the United States*, co-edited in 1998 and an essay
21 for *Native Universe*, the inaugural publication of the Nation Museum of the American
22 Indian; and

1 WHEREAS, in recent years, Mankiller served on several philanthropic boards,
2 including twelve years on the board of trustees of the Ford Foundation, four years on the
3 board of the Ms. Foundation for Women, and four years on the board of the Seventh
4 Generation Fund; and

5 WHEREAS, in addition she was serving on the board of the Freedom Forum as well
6 as its subsidiary, the Newseum, a \$400-million museum of the news located on
7 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., with a mission to educate the public about
8 the value of a free press in a free society and tell the stories of the important events in
9 the world in unique and engaging ways; and

10 WHEREAS, over the years Mankiller presented more than one hundred lectures on
11 the challenges facing Native Americans and women in the 21st century; and

12 WHEREAS, in 2005 Mankiller served as the Wayne Morse Professor at the
13 University of Oregon, where she and Dr. Rennard Strickland taught a class on tribal
14 government, law and life; and

15 WHEREAS, this outstanding American passed away on April 6, 2010, the age of 64
16 years.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
18 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA
19 LEGISLATURE:

20 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representative hereby commends the full life and
21 many accomplishments of this outstanding Oklahoma-born author, lecturer and former
22 principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, the late Wilma Mankiller.

1 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives offers its most sincere condolences
2 to the surviving Mankiller family.

3 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Wilma Mankiller's husband Charlie
4 Soap.

5 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.