

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 52nd Legislature (2010)

3 HOUSE

4 RESOLUTION 1080

By: Hoskin and Brown

5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution commending the life of Wilma Mankiller;  
8 offering condolences; and directing distribution.  
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11 WHEREAS, Wilma Mankiller was born at Hastings Indian Hospital in  
12 Tahlequah, Oklahoma, in 1945, and grew up with few amenities; and

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, her roots were planted deep in the rural community of  
22 Mankiller Flats in Adair County, Oklahoma, where she spent most of  
23 her life; and  
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1           WHEREAS, Wilma Mankiller was the founding director of the  
2 Cherokee Nation Community Development Department, which received  
3 several national awards for innovative use of self-help in housing  
4 and water projects for low-income Cherokee communities; and

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

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

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

18           WHEREAS, her tenure was marked by a great deal of new  
19 development, including several new free-standing health clinics, an  
20 \$11-million Job Corps Center, and greatly expanded services for  
21 children and youth; and

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

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

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

9       WHEREAS, in recent years, Mankiller served on several  
10 philanthropic boards, including twelve years on the board of  
11 trustees of the Ford Foundation, four years on the board of the Ms.  
12 Foundation for Women, and four years on the board of the Seventh  
13 Generation Fund; and

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

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

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

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

6       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
7 OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

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

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

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

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