

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 SENATE CONCURRENT  
4 RESOLUTION 28

By: Gumm of the Senate

5 and

6 Buck of the House

7  
8 AS INTRODUCED

9 A Concurrent Resolution recognizing the heroism of  
10 Byron Self and Cheryl Myers; and directing  
11 distribution.

12  
13 WHEREAS, the holiday season in Madill, Oklahoma, was a joyous  
14 one, thanks to a Good Neighbor and a Good Samaritan. The story  
15 began in a 105-year-old house located at 701 Lillie Boulevard in  
16 Madill, Oklahoma. It has been home to Jim and Dee O'Neal for the  
17 past 43 years; and

18 WHEREAS, early on a Friday afternoon, December 19, 2008, the  
19 house caught fire. Jim O'Neal, proprietor of the Busy Bee Cleaners,  
20 was at work. His wife, Dee, who suffers from respiratory problems,  
21 was at home in the back of the house; and

22 WHEREAS, Good Neighbor Byron Self was at his nearby home  
23 watching a crew installing windows. When he noticed smoke billowing  
24 from the O'Neal's house, Self and the window crew hurried over to

1 help. On his way over, he noticed a woman with a cell phone and  
2 instructed her to call the fire department. When he arrived at the  
3 burning house, Self was aware that Jim O'Neal was at work, and Dee  
4 O'Neal was none too ambulatory; and

5 WHEREAS, the window installers entered the house with Self but  
6 were forced back out by the heavy smoke. With his eyes burning and  
7 choking with smoke, Self rushed in. When he reached the back of the  
8 house, Self discovered Mrs. O'Neal with her oxygen machine mask on,  
9 enabling her to breath good air; and

10 WHEREAS, when Byron Self attempted to help Dee O'Neal out of the  
11 burning building, a stranger who had followed Self into the house  
12 grabbed Dee's feet, and then the two were able to successfully  
13 rescue her from the smoke and flames; and

14 WHEREAS, the Good Samaritan who rushed into the blazing  
15 structure to save a stranger was Cheryl Myers, a night-shift  
16 employee at Brookside Nursing Home. Like Byron Self, Cheryl Myers  
17 arrived before the fire department. After the rescue, ascertaining  
18 that Dee O'Neal was safe, she walked away unnoticed and  
19 unrecognized. At the time no one knew the identity of the  
20 mysterious, slight woman who risked her own life to save that of a  
21 stranger; and

22 WHEREAS, the spirit of the holidays was demonstrated in Madill,  
23 Oklahoma, by Byron Self and Cheryl Myers, a Good Neighbor and a Good  
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1 Samaritan, who put the safety and welfare of another above their  
2 own.

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

6 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature recognizes the heroism of  
7 Byron Self and Cheryl Myers, commends their courageous actions, and  
8 thanks them for their unselfish demonstration of the true meaning of  
9 the holiday season.

10 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Madill's Good  
11 Neighbor and Good Samaritan, Byron Self and Cheryl Myers.

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