

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE
4 RESOLUTION 10

By: Corn

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution acknowledging the leadership of Franklin
8 D. Roosevelt; designating March 4, 2009, "Franklin D.
9 Roosevelt Appreciation and Remembrance Day" in the
10 State of Oklahoma; and directing distribution.

11 WHEREAS, during an era known as the "Great Depression", a time
12 with economic conditions similar to today's economic situation, the
13 American people elected Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) as President of
14 the United States. During his first Inaugural Address, on March 4,
15 1933, FDR, a former state senator, rallied the people of this great
16 nation and displayed his leadership by forcibly reminding us that:
17 "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself"; and

18 WHEREAS, Oklahoma was particularly hard hit, especially in what
19 became known as the "Dust Bowl". A severe drought which preceded
20 the Great Depression had decimated agricultural efforts in much of
21 Oklahoma and surrounding states. Historical literature is full of
22 vivid descriptions of the plight of the Oklahoma populace during
23 that period; and
24

1 WHEREAS, Franklin D. Roosevelt responded to these conditions
2 with what is known as the "New Deal". This included the
3 introduction, passage, and administration of the Emergency Relief
4 Appropriation Act, the Works Progress Administration, the Civilian
5 Conservation Corps, the Shelterbelt Project, and other New Deal
6 initiatives. FDR exerted the leadership necessary to ensure that
7 these efforts came to successful fruition; and

8 WHEREAS, one of the key by-products of the New Deal was the
9 introduction of agriculture and watershed management sponsored by
10 the federal government. This was accompanied by an increase in
11 conservation efforts. These efforts, along with other New Deal
12 economic initiatives such as Social Security, greatly aided Oklahoma
13 and individual Oklahomans and were crucial in the recovery effort of
14 both this state and nation; and

15 WHEREAS, we as a state and a nation today face similar economic
16 challenges and difficulties. It is altogether appropriate that we
17 remember and appreciate the successful responses from the past to
18 combat the conditions that confronted us then and to some extent do
19 so again today.

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

22 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes the bleak economic
23 conditions that faced FDR upon assuming the Presidency, acknowledges
24 his leadership during those dark days, and voices its collective

1 gratitude for FDR's contributions to Oklahoma and Oklahomans in the
2 ecological and economic calamities known as the Dust Bowl and the
3 Great Depression.

4 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate designates March 4, 2009, the
5 anniversary of FDR's first inaugural address, as "Franklin D.
6 Roosevelt Appreciation and Remembrance Day" in the State of
7 Oklahoma.

8 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma
9 History Center and the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library
10 and Museum in Hyde Park, New York.

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