

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE  
4 RESOLUTION 65

By: Johnson (Constance) and  
Eason McIntyre

5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution acknowledging the unique and rich  
8 contributions of the Cherokee Freedmen to the State  
9 of Oklahoma; celebrating their 142nd year of  
10 citizenship in the Cherokee Nation; and directing  
11 distribution.

12 WHEREAS, Freedmen, the descendents of African slaves owned by  
13 Native American tribal members, came to new settlements in Oklahoma  
14 from traditional Native American lands in North Carolina, Florida,  
15 Georgia, and other areas along with their tribal members during the  
16 forced migration known as the "Trail of Tears"; and

17 WHEREAS, according to the Sequoyah Research Center at the  
18 University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Arkansas, the Cherokee tribe,  
19 one of the largest in the United States, was a multi-racial, multi-  
20 cultural constitutional nation whose citizenship was based on birth  
21 or adoption. It was also once one of the wealthiest tribes. Some  
22 of its members held more than 100 slaves on plantations in the  
23 South; and

1       WHEREAS, Cherokee Freedmen gained their first citizenship in the  
2 Cherokee Nation pursuant to the Treaty of 1866, which acknowledged  
3 the nation's surrender in conjunction with the defeat of the  
4 Confederacy. Cherokee Freedmen gained their second citizenship in  
5 1901 when the United States made all of the citizens of the Cherokee  
6 Nation citizens of the United States; and

7       WHEREAS, the tribal lineage of black Native American descendants  
8 is rich in history and precedent. Cherokee Freedmen, in particular,  
9 actively participated in the economic, social, and political life of  
10 the tribes, including voting and running for political office, and  
11 have been main players in every election.

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

14       THAT the Oklahoma State Senate acknowledges the unique heritage  
15 and rich contributions of the Cherokee Freedmen to the State of  
16 Oklahoma.

17       THAT the Oklahoma State Senate joins the Cherokee Freedmen in  
18 celebrating their 142nd year of citizenship in the Cherokee Nation.

19       THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Executive  
20 Director of the Freedmen Association of the Five Civilized Tribes.

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