

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE
4 RESOLUTION 83

By: Coates

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution honoring Dawn Welch; and directing
8 distribution.

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11 WHEREAS, Dawn Welch, a graduate of Yukon High School, used to
12 work with Garth Brooks at Ken's Pizza. Garth used to play practical
13 jokes on her which may explain why Dawn spent some time following
14 her graduation working on cruise ships around the world before
15 returning to Oklahoma. When she returned, Dawn Welch settled in
16 Stroud, Oklahoma; and

17 WHEREAS, the Rock Café was opened in 1939 by its original owner,
18 Roy Rieves. In 1993 Dawn Welch became the fourth owner of the
19 restaurant located on Route 66 at 114 West Main Street in Stroud,
20 Oklahoma, midway between Tulsa and Oklahoma City. In 2002, thanks
21 to four years of effort by Dawn Welch, the Rock Café was added to
22 the National Register of Historic Places. However, Welch lost
23 everything when the building burned down on May 20, 2008. In just
24 over a year, thanks to her determination and persistence, the Rock

1 Café was rebuilt with the guidance of an historic preservationist
2 and with rocks excavated during the construction of Route 66. The
3 January 2010 edition of "Oklahoma Living" published by the Electric
4 Cooperatives of Oklahoma featured a picture of Dawn Welch and the
5 Rock Café on its cover and named the Rock Café "Best Oklahoma
6 diner;" and

7 WHEREAS, movie executives from Pixar visited the Rock Café in
8 preparation for their 2006 animated movie "Cars." Dawn Welch
9 inspired the character Sally Carrera, a blue Porsche, who runs the
10 Cozy Cone Motel in the animated Disney film. After the café burned
11 down, John Lasseter, director of the movie, sent her memorabilia
12 from the film to redecorate the Rock Café; and

13 WHEREAS, cuisine at the Rock Café includes buffalo and alligator
14 burgers, chicken fried steak, fried pickles, and bread pudding. Her
15 background as a chef led Dawn Welch to author "Dollars to Donuts:
16 Comfort Food and Kitchen Wisdom From Route 66's Landmark Rock Café"
17 published by Rodale. Not just a cookbook, but a guide to operating
18 a cost-effective home kitchen, it has brought both Dawn Welch and
19 the Rock Café more recognition and publicity. Dawn appeared on the
20 NBC-TV "Today" show on Thursday, January 21, 2009, where she
21 discussed the book and prepared a three cheese white lasagna; and

22 WHEREAS, on New Year's Eve, December 31, 2009, Dawn Welch, owner
23 of the historic Rock Café, was named Woman of the Year by the
24 "Oklahoman" newspaper; and

1 WHEREAS, Dawn Welch's daughter, Alexis Herr, is presently
2 serving as a page with the Oklahoma State Senate.

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION
4 OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

5 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate honors Dawn Welch for her
6 perseverance throughout life; promotion of Stroud, Route 66, and the
7 State of Oklahoma; and her many personal accomplishments.

8 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Dawn Welch and
9 her daughter, Alexis Herr.

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