

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 53rd Legislature (2011)

3 HOUSE CONCURRENT
4 RESOLUTION 1018

By: Dorman

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Concurrent Resolution celebrating the field
8 artillery; declaring May 19, 2011, Field Artillery
9 Day; and directing distribution.

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12 WHEREAS, the site of Fort Sill was staked out on January 8,
13 1869, by Major General Philip H. Sheridan, who led a campaign into
14 Indian Territory to stop hostiles from raiding border settlements in
15 Texas and Kansas, and at first the garrison was called "Camp
16 Wichita" and was referred to by the Native Americans as "the Soldier
17 House at Medicine Bluffs." Sheridan later named it in honor of his
18 West Point classmate and friend, Brigadier General Joshua W. Sill,
19 who was killed during the American Civil War. The first post
20 commander was Brevet Major General Benjamin Grierson and the first
21 Indian agent was Colonel Albert Gallatin Boone, grandson of Daniel
22 Boone; and

23 WHEREAS, The last Indian lands in Oklahoma opened for settlement
24 in 1901 and 29,000 homesteaders registered at Fort Sill during July

1 for the land lottery. On August 6, 1901, the town of Lawton was
2 established and quickly grew to become the third largest city in
3 Oklahoma, and was later renamed Lawton-Fort Sill; and

4 WHEREAS, with the disappearance of the frontier, the mission of
5 Fort Sill gradually changed from cavalry to field artillery as the
6 first artillery battery arrived at Fort Sill in 1902, and the last
7 cavalry regiment departed in May 1907. In 1917, the Henry Post Army
8 Airfield was constructed for artillery observation and spotting.
9 The School of Fire for the Field Artillery was founded at Fort Sill
10 in 1911 and continues to operate today as the world renowned U.S.
11 Army Field Artillery School. At various historic times Fort Sill
12 has also served as home to the Infantry School of Musketry, the
13 School for Aerial Observers, the Artillery Officers Candidate School
14 (Robinson Barracks), the Air Service Flying School, and the Army
15 Aviation School; and

16 WHEREAS, Fort Sill remains the only active Army installation of
17 all the forts on the South Plains built during the Indian Wars, and
18 is designated as a National Historic Landmark. Fort Sill serves as
19 home of the United States Army Field Artillery School, the Marine
20 Corps Field Artillery School, the United States Army Air Defense
21 Artillery School, the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade, the 75th
22 Fires Brigade, the 214th Fires Brigade and the Tulsa National Guard
23 138th Operations Group Air Force Detachment, along with being one of
24 five locations for Army Basic Combat Training; and

1 WHEREAS, thousands of soldiers and Marines have been trained for
2 service in the field artillery at Fort Sill, including former
3 President Harry S. Truman, who during World War I became the
4 Commander of Company D, 129th Field Artillery, entering combat in
5 the last few months of the war, moving his horse-drawn battery to
6 engage the enemy and supporting the infantry, firing his last shot
7 on the day of the Armistice at 10:45 A.M.; and

8 WHEREAS, Oklahomans take great pride in the history of Fort Sill
9 and in the continuing critical role the Field Artillery plays in the
10 defense of the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, May 19, 2011, has been designated as Field Artillery
12 Day to commemorate the 100th Anniversary for the School of Fire for
13 the Field Artillery.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
15 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 53RD OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE
16 CONCURRING THEREIN:

17 THAT May 19, 2011, shall be known as Field Artillery Day in the
18 State of Oklahoma.

19 THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to Major General
20 David Halverson, Commanding General of Fort Sill; Command Sergeant
21 Major Dwight Morrisey; Brigadier General Thomas Vandal, Commandant
22 of the Field Artillery School; Colonel Raymond Lacey, Fort Sill
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1 Garrison Commander; Colonel Daniel Karbler, Fort Sill Chief of
2 Staff; and to the Fort Sill National Historic Landmark Museum.

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