

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE CONCURRENT
4 RESOLUTION 19

By: Brecheen and Ellis of the
Senate

5 and

6 Roan of the House

7
8 AS INTRODUCED

9 A Concurrent Resolution expressing condolences with
10 respect to those killed or injured in the Tushka
11 tornado; and expressing gratitude to all who assisted
victims in the aftermath.

12 WHEREAS, April 2011 will go down in weather history as one of
13 the most violent and tragic ever, with more than 450 tornadoes and
14 more than 6,500 severe weather reports nationwide; and

15 WHEREAS, the town of Tushka, Oklahoma, was devastated by one of
16 these storms on April 14, during which an EF3 tornado caused
17 extensive suffering and property damage, resulting in the deaths of
18 sisters Sammie Lee Dement and Ava Walkup and injuries of many other
19 residents, leveling 149 homes and damaging dozens of other
20 structures, including a school building built in 1918; and

21 WHEREAS, even before the storm clouds dissipated, the Oklahoma
22 spirit kicked in to help the families and businesses of Tushka.
23 Volunteers immediately provided food, water, clothing and medical
24 care to those affected. Friends and neighbors took in those

1 families left homeless and helped remove debris, board up
2 structures, and reopen homes and businesses. The Kiamichi
3 Technology Center - Atoka Campus and the Tushka Baptist Church
4 opened their doors to welcome the students and faculty of the Tushka
5 Public School System ensuring the completion of the 2010-2011
6 academic year. Countless Oklahomans have contributed their time and
7 treasure and will continue to help Tushkans in the days and months
8 of restoration that are still ahead; and

9 WHEREAS, while the Oklahoma spring weather will always wreak its
10 havoc, it is a comfort to our citizens to know that Oklahoma
11 families, friends, neighbors, local churches, nonprofit
12 organizations, businesses, and governmental and tribal agencies will
13 be ever present in times of trouble.

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

17 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate hereby expresses its condolences
18 to the families and friends of Sammie Lee Dement and Ava Walkup and
19 those injured in the Tushka tornado of 2011, and expresses its
20 gratitude to all who assisted victims in the aftermath of the
21 tornado and all who will continue to give assistance in the days to
22 follow.

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