

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE CONCURRENT  
4 RESOLUTION 8

By: Reynolds and Russell of the  
Senate

5 and

6 Ritze of the House

7  
8  
9 AS INTRODUCED

10 A Concurrent Resolution commending the life of Frank  
11 Woodruff Buckles; offering condolences; and directing  
12 distribution.

13 WHEREAS, Frank Woodruff Buckles' life, in his own words, spanned  
14 the awesome, horrible, fantastic, dreadful Twentieth Century; and

15 WHEREAS, Frank Buckles was born on a family farm in Harrison  
16 County, Missouri, on February 1, 1901; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1916, Buckles moved with his family to Dewey County,  
18 Oklahoma, near Oakwood; and

19 WHEREAS, on April 6, 1917, the United States entered the Great  
20 War and Frank Buckles, at the age of sixteen, tried to enlist in the  
21 Marines and the Navy and was turned down by both; and

22 WHEREAS, in August 1917, Buckles enlisted in the United States  
23 Army in Oklahoma City and he chose to be an ambulance driver,  
24 hearing that was the quickest path to service in France; and

1       WHEREAS, Buckles sailed for England on the HMS Carpathia and  
2 served in various locations in France driving military vehicles and  
3 ambulances; and

4       WHEREAS, after the war, Buckles returned to Oklahoma City and  
5 after earning enough money took the train to Toronto, Canada, where  
6 he went to work for the White Star Line Steamship Company; and

7       WHEREAS, in 1941, while on shipping business in Manila, Buckles  
8 was taken prisoner of war by the Japanese and was imprisoned for  
9 three and one-half years until being liberated by an American  
10 airborne unit in February 1945; and

11       WHEREAS, Frank Buckles retired from steamship work in the mid-  
12 1950s and ran a cattle ranch and farming operation and up until the  
13 age of 106 was still driving a tractor; and

14       WHEREAS, in 2007, Frank Buckles was identified by the Department  
15 of Veterans Affairs as the last living link to the two million men  
16 who served in the American Expeditionary Forces in France in the  
17 "war to end all wars"; and

18       WHEREAS, Frank Buckles, the last World War I doughboy, died on  
19 Sunday, February 27, 2011, at his home in Charles Town, West  
20 Virginia. Mr. Buckles was 110 years old.

21       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION  
22 OF THE 53RD OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
23 CONCURRING THEREIN:

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1        THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature hereby commends the full  
2 life and many accomplishments of this outstanding patriot and last  
3 living World War I doughboy, the late Frank Woodruff Buckles.

4        THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature offers it most sincere  
5 condolences to the Buckles family.

6        THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Frank Buckles'  
7 daughter, Susannah Flanagan.

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9        53-1-1583            JT            3/7/2011 11:51:38 AM

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