

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature (2012)

3 SENATE
4 RESOLUTION 59

By: Brecheen

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution recognizing May 15, 2012, as Choctaw
8 Nation Day at the Capitol; commending the Choctaw
9 Nation's endurance, generosity and historical and
contemporary contributions to the State of Oklahoma;
and directing distribution.

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12 WHEREAS, the name Oklahoma comes from the Choctaw language,
13 "okla" being the Choctaw word for people and "humma" meaning red,
14 serving as an important symbol of the historic ties between Oklahoma
15 and the Choctaw Nation; and

16 WHEREAS, the Choctaw people, though still recovering from the
17 Trail of Tears, displayed their humanity, compassion and generosity
18 when members of the tribe raised \$170, a fortune at that time, to
19 send to victims of the Irish Potato Famine in 1847. The gift
20 resulted in an enduring bond between Ireland and the Choctaw Nation
21 and reflects positively on all Oklahomans; and

22 WHEREAS, members of the Choctaw nation helped the United States
23 and its allies secure victory in World War I as this country's
24 original Code Talkers, using their native language to obstruct

1 German code-breakers by transmitting allied messages in their native
2 language; and

3 WHEREAS, the Choctaw Nation has dedicated itself to the
4 preservation of its native language and culture, including art,
5 music, dance and traditional games, helping keep alive a rich
6 heritage defining the Choctaws and Oklahoma; and

7 WHEREAS, the Choctaw people represent the third largest
8 federally recognized tribe in the country with more than 200,000
9 members, with businesses employing thousands of tribal and non-
10 tribal Oklahomans.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION
12 OF THE 53RD OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

13 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes Tuesday, May 15, 2012,
14 as Choctaw Nation Day at the State Capitol.

15 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commends the Choctaw Nation's
16 endurance, generosity and historical and contemporary contributions
17 to the State of Oklahoma, and looks forward to a continued mutually
18 beneficial relationship between the Choctaw Nation and the State of
19 Oklahoma.

20 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Choctaw Chief
21 Gregory E. Pyle.

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