

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

4 ENGROSSED SENATE  
5 CONCURRENT  
6 RESOLUTION NO. 16

7 By: Justice, Allen, Anderson,  
8 Barrington, Bass, Bice,  
9 Bingman, Boggs, Brecheen,  
10 Brinkley, Brooks, Brown,  
11 Crain, Dahm, David, Fields,  
12 Floyd, Ford, Fry, Garrison,  
13 Griffin, Halligan, Holt,  
14 Jech, Jolley, Loveless,  
15 Marlatt, Mazzei, Newberry,  
16 Paddack, Pittman, Quinn,  
17 Schulz, Sharp, Shaw,  
18 Shortey, Silk, Simpson,  
19 Smalley, Sparks,  
20 Standridge, Stanislawski,  
21 Sykes, Thompson, Treat,  
22 Wyrick, and Yen of the  
23 Senate

24 and

25 Osborn of the House

26  
27  
28 A Concurrent Resolution designating April 14, 2015,  
29 as "Dust Bowl Remembrance Day"; applauding the heroic  
30 work of the Oklahoma Dust Bowl survivors' farm and  
31 ranch families; encouraging the continued adoption of  
32 improved conservation practices; and directing  
33 distribution.

34 WHEREAS, the Dust Bowl of the 1930s is recognized as the  
35 greatest man-made ecological disaster of modern times; and

1           WHEREAS, farming practices ill-suited for the Southern Plains  
2 and long-term drought resulted in the dust storms beyond what many  
3 believed possible – many so massive they blew beyond our Great  
4 Plains to darken the streets of New York and Washington, D.C. So  
5 great were these storms, ships 300 miles from the Atlantic shore  
6 were dusted by soil from the farms of Oklahoma; and

7           WHEREAS, April 14, 2015, marks the 80th anniversary of "Black  
8 Sunday", the largest dust storm of this period, an event so massive,  
9 it is estimated this single storm moved more soil in one day than  
10 was excavated to build the Panama Canal; and

11           WHEREAS, although many families were forced to leave the land,  
12 the survivors and their families persevered. The families who  
13 endured the relentless drought and dust through the Great Depression  
14 are heroes to Oklahoma and the nation; and

15           WHEREAS, through their efforts in partnership with the Soil  
16 Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation  
17 Service), Local Conservation Districts and the Oklahoma Conservation  
18 Commission, the tide of dust created during the 1930s was turned  
19 back. Approximately 1.5 million acres of abandoned farmland was  
20 returned to productive agriculture through voluntary, locally led  
21 conservation practices; and

22           WHEREAS, today's drought exceeds that of the 1930s, yet our  
23 soils remain productive, our crops sustaining, our air and water  
24 refreshing. These facts bear witness to the legacy of our Dust Bowl

1 survivors, who found courage in the horror of Black Sunday and other  
2 dust storms and resolved to heal our land. The continued work which  
3 these survivors began voluntarily and in partnership with state,  
4 local, and federal conservation agencies represents a bastion of  
5 progress which the dust shall never surmount.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION  
7 OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
8 CONCURRING THEREIN:

9 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature designates April 14, 2015, as  
10 "Dust Bowl Remembrance Day" in Oklahoma.

11 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature applauds the heroic work  
12 undertaken by the Oklahoma Dust Bowl survivors' farm and ranch  
13 families to restore and protect our environment while continuing to  
14 feed and clothe the nation.

15 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature encourages the continued voluntary  
16 adoption of improved conservation practices in an effort to maintain  
17 agricultural production while protecting the health of our soil and  
18 water resources.

19 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma  
20 Association of Conservation Districts.

21  
22 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.  
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