

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

HOUSE

RESOLUTION 1015

By: Thomsen

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution proclaiming April 2, 2015, as FCA Day in Oklahoma; commending certain individuals; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, in 1947 the idea of athletes using their influence to endorse Jesus Christ began in Stillwater, Oklahoma, in the heart of Don McClanen as a young student manager for legendary Oklahoma A&M basketball coach, Hank Iba; and

WHEREAS, a few years later while Mr. McClanen was head basketball coach at Eastern Oklahoma Junior College in Wilburton, Oklahoma, the idea turned into a vision "to see the world impacted for Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes"; and

WHEREAS, in 1954 his vision was transformed into an official Oklahoma not-for-profit corporation in Norman, Oklahoma, named the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) with the sole mission "to present to coaches and athletes, and all whom they influence, the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and

1 Lord, serving Him in their relationships, and in the fellowship of
2 the church"; and

3 WHEREAS, a key to the strong beginning of FCA was the
4 endorsement of great men of faith in college and professional
5 sports, including University of Oklahoma Head Football Coach Bud
6 Wilkinson who, after a spring practice in 1956, introduced FCA to
7 his team through the testimony of Doak Walker, Otto Graham and
8 Pepper Martin; and

9 WHEREAS, through Coach Wilkinson's influence core members of his
10 football team like Clendon Thomas and Chuck Bowman attended the
11 first FCA Summer Camp in 1956 in Estes Park, Colorado, a camp with
12 two hundred fifty-six college athletes that focused on "Inspiration
13 and Perspiration"; and

14 WHEREAS, from its origin in Oklahoma and due to the bold vision,
15 leadership and faith of Oklahoma coaches and athletes like Don
16 McClanen, Bud Wilkinson, Clendon Thomas, Chuck Bowman and countless
17 others the Fellowship of Christian Athletes has spread throughout
18 the United States and into forty-four countries internationally.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
20 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

21 THAT Thursday, April 2, 2015, is hereby proclaimed as FCA Day in
22 Oklahoma in honor of the impact Oklahoma has had on the world
23 through the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.
24

1 THAT Don McClanen, Bud Wilkinson, Clendon Thomas and Chuck
2 Bowman are to be commended for being instrumental in the influence
3 of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

4 THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to Chuck Bowman,
5 Clendon Thomas and Jay Wilkinson, son of Bud Wilkinson.

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7 55-1-7263 AM 03/31/15

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