

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 54th Legislature (2013)

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 8

By: Johnson (Constance) of the
Senate

and

Pittman and Shelton of the
House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution recognizing March 2013
through March 2014 as the Centennial Celebration Year
of the life and work of Ralph Waldo Ellison; and
directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Ralph Waldo Ellison, an internationally renowned writer
and one of the most celebrated figures in American literature, was
born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on March 1, 1913; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Waldo Ellison was the author of the 1953 National
Book Award-winning novel "Invisible Man"; numerous short stories;
essays on jazz, literature, and American culture collected in
"Shadow and Act" and "Going to the Territory"; and his posthumous
novels "Juneteenth" and "Three Days Before the Shooting"; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Waldo Ellison, also an accomplished sculptor,
musician, photographer and college professor, was awarded the
Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1969, and the National Medal of

1 Arts in 1985. His hometown honored him in 1975 with the dedication
2 of the Ralph Ellison Library in Oklahoma City; and

3 WHEREAS, the Ralph Ellison Centennial Committee is working to
4 honor the memory and legacy of this famed literary treasure's life
5 March 2013 through March 2014 via a series of public events
6 throughout Oklahoma City and the State of Oklahoma, and the
7 establishment of a variety of Ralph Ellison memorials and archives
8 that will live on beyond the centennial celebration; and

9 WHEREAS, community partners will work collaboratively and
10 individually to organize public events in a variety of venues to
11 celebrate Ralph Ellison and his influence in raising awareness of
12 the contributions of African Americans to America's national
13 identity, and the idea that embracing one's culture is the way to
14 personal freedom.

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION
16 OF THE 54TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
17 CONCURRING THEREIN:

18 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature recognizes March 2013 through
19 March 2014 as the Centennial Celebration Year of the life and work
20 of Ralph Waldo Ellison.

21 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Ralph
22 Ellison Library in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

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