

Resolution

ENROLLED HOUSE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1004

By: Hoskin of the House

and

Sparks, Allen, Bass,
Bergstrom, Bice, Boggs,
Brecheen, Brown, Dahm,
Daniels, David, Dossett
Dugger, Fields, Floyd, Fry,
Griffin, Holt, Jech, Kidd,
Leewright, Loveless,
Marlatt, Matthews,
McCortney, Newberry,
Newhouse, Paxton, Pederson,
Pemberton, Pittman, Pugh,
Quinn, Rader, Schulz,
Scott, Sharp, Shaw,
Shortey, Silk, Simpson,
Smalley, Standridge,
Stanislawski, Sykes,
Thompson, Treat and Yen of
the Senate

A Concurrent Resolution commemorating American Indians and tribal nations through a showing of respect for the losses suffered by American Indians during removal to the State of Oklahoma; directing that a moment of silence be observed in memory of the hardships endured by American Indians during the removal of Indian tribes to Oklahoma; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma was previously designated as Indian Territory before statehood in 1907, and is currently the home of 38 federally recognized Indian tribes who have ancestral homelands spanning from coast to coast; and

WHEREAS, American Indian people have played an integral role in United States history and have contributed to the success and proud heritage of the State of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, American Indian tribal nations each have a unique and distinguished culture, including languages, spiritual customs, origin stories, music and arts that portray the history and societal structure of each tribe; and

WHEREAS, the United States entered into hundreds of treaties with Indian tribes and assumed many responsibilities in exchange for millions of acres of tribal lands; and

WHEREAS, the forced relocation of several tribes to Indian Territory, west of the Mississippi River, severely damaged the government-to-government relationship between tribal governments and the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the Indian Removal Act, enacted by Congress in 1830 and signed into law by President Andrew Jackson, defied United States Supreme Court decisions and led to the removal of millions of American Indians from their historic homelands; and

WHEREAS, due to federal removal policies, tribal nations were forced to travel great distances, through harsh conditions, to modern-day Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, this forced migration resulted in not only the loss of all that the tribal nations owned but also extreme physical suffering and heartbreak, and led to the deaths of thousands of innocent American Indians; and

WHEREAS, following forced removal to Indian Territory most tribes were provided false promises and hope for a better life but, as settlers encroached on their new lands, were further displaced without legal protection or representation; and

WHEREAS, of the tribes that were already residing in Oklahoma and those that were relocated through removal, all contributed to the formation and progress of the State of Oklahoma, and today tribal governments in Oklahoma honor and remember their ancestors' sacrifices and journey to a new land; and

WHEREAS, these tribes have persevered by overcoming the hardships inflicted upon them and rebuilt effective governments which today enable the tribes to provide critical social services for their tribal citizens, including health care, housing and education; and

WHEREAS, tribal governments and tribal businesses generate billions of dollars in revenue for core services in Oklahoma and tribes are responsible for creating thousands of jobs, building critical infrastructure and providing economic development opportunities that benefit all Oklahomans; and

WHEREAS, due to the immeasurable impact of tribal nations on the success of the State of Oklahoma, it is crucial that we honor and remember the great sacrifices of their ancestors who endured the horrors of the Trail of Tears and other forced removals and that we commemorate their respective journeys to rebuild the great Indian Nations that we know today.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 56TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature hereby commemorates American Indians and tribal nations through a showing of respect for the losses suffered by American Indians during removal to the State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature hereby directs that a moment of silence be observed on February 22, 2017, to commemorate the sacrifices and hardships of all American Indians in Oklahoma.

THAT a copy of this resolution be presented and distributed to every federally recognized tribal government in the State of Oklahoma.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 13th day of February, 2017.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Adopted by the Senate the 15th day of February, 2017.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____