

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

4 HOUSE
5 RESOLUTION 1020

By: Biggs

6
7
8 AS INTRODUCED

9 A Resolution recognizing the leadership of James Dean
10 Harrel; congratulating and honoring James Dean Harrel
11 for his public service to Oklahoma's agriculture
12 community and FFA and 4-H members; and directing
13 distribution.

14 WHEREAS, rancher, businessman, leader and promoter of
15 agriculture, James Dean "Jimmy" Harrel, is the CEO and Chairman of
16 the Board of Directors of the Bank of Western Oklahoma; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Harrel was raised on a ranch in Roger Mills County
18 and has always been interested in agriculture, business and in
19 making rural Oklahoma a better place in which to live and work; and

20 WHEREAS, as a young boy, he learned to ride and rope, farm on a
21 Ford tractor and tend to horses and cattle alongside his father and
22 would have loved to spend his life that way. However, his
23 competitive nature, strong inner drive, and love for the rural way
24 of life led him to a career of service instead; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Harrel attended a small country school before
2 moving to the town of Leedey, Oklahoma, and graduated high school
3 with a class of 18. Thereafter, he attended Oklahoma State
4 University; and

5 WHEREAS, his experiences as a vocational agriculture instructor,
6 classroom teacher and basketball coach instilled in him a love for
7 young people; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Harrel entered the world of banking in 1985 with
9 the goal of helping farmers and ranchers, especially young people
10 beginning their careers in agriculture, and keeping agriculture a
11 vital part of Oklahoma's and the nation's economies; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Harrel helped improve rural Oklahoma by serving on
13 a state task force team, attending national budget planning meetings
14 in Washington, D.C., serving on the State Opinion Leaders Team and
15 representing our state in Mexico as a member of the Economic Trade
16 Leadership team; and

17 WHEREAS, his service on the Lieutenant Governor's Business
18 Advisory Council and most recently on a panel for FDIC economic
19 discussions for the respective local region furthered his
20 understanding of Oklahoma's economic opportunities; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Harrel was recognized for his contributions to the
22 state's economic growth when he received a Presidential Citation
23 from President Bill Clinton in 1993 and was named an Honorary
24

1 Oklahoma Secretary of State by then Secretary of State Tom Cole in
2 1997; and

3 WHEREAS, he also served his local community as a member of the
4 Leedey City Council and on local and county fair boards and received
5 a commendation of appreciation from the town of Leedey for his
6 efforts in obtaining funds to support the fire station, establishing
7 a clinic in Leedey to service the local medical needs and updating
8 sidewalks and improving highways throughout the town. A stretch of
9 Highway 34 south of Leedey has been named in his honor; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Harrel has been a fixture in the American Quarter
11 Horse industry and contributed to the development and promotion of
12 quarter horse racing in the state of Oklahoma and across the nation.
13 He has had several champion horses and was chosen for special
14 interviews by an Oklahoma City TV channel for promotion of the race
15 horse industry when Remington Park Race Track and pari-mutuel racing
16 were being established in Oklahoma; and

17 WHEREAS, Governor David Walters appointed Mr. Harrel to serve on
18 the Oklahoma State Board of Agriculture noting his insight about the
19 importance of agriculture in the state's welfare and economy; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Harrel's dedication to the principle that all young
21 people in Oklahoma should have a chance to receive a higher
22 education at an affordable price prompted Governor Walters to also
23 appoint him to the Oklahoma Board of Regents for Oklahoma State
24 University and A&M Colleges. Governors Frank Keating and Brad Henry

1 appointed him to successive terms to the Oklahoma Regents for Higher
2 Education where he currently serves; and

3 WHEREAS, his youth experiences in the FFA and 4-H inspired him
4 to relentlessly support these valuable programs. He received an
5 honorary state FFA degree and an honorary FFA degree from seven
6 chapters in western Oklahoma. He is a recipient of the Oklahoma and
7 National FFA Association Outstanding Alumni Awards. He was also
8 awarded the National FFA Association's Businessman of the Year; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Harrel continues to advocate that the FFA and 4-H
10 programs offer life lessons in the development of leadership,
11 responsibility, strong work ethic and a sense of self-worth. He is
12 well known for his mentoring and leadership as he encourages young
13 people to become future leaders in their communities and state; and

14 WHEREAS, his knowledge of livestock makes Mr. Harrel a valued
15 participant at local, district and state livestock shows and he was
16 named an Oklahoma Youth Expo Show Honoree in 2005, a distinction
17 reserved for those who significantly contribute to the success of
18 the world's largest junior livestock show over a period of many
19 years; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Harrel loves the State of Oklahoma and believes
21 strongly in the future of our state. His outstanding state
22 leadership, efforts to support agriculture and encouragement to
23 Oklahoma's youth are desired qualities of any great Oklahoman; and
24

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Harrel served on the Oklahoma Wildlife Commission
2 as Chairman where he led an effort to rescue additional land for
3 public hunting and fishing.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
5 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 56TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

6 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature recognizes the excellent
7 leadership of James Dean Harrel.

8 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature congratulates and honors James
9 Harrel for over 30 years of public service to Oklahoma's agriculture
10 community and thousands of young FFA and 4-H members.

11 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to James Dean
12 Harrel.

13
14 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24