

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

3 HOUSE CONCURRENT
4 RESOLUTION 1004

By: Hoskin

7 AS INTRODUCED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 WHEREAS, of the tribes that were already residing in Oklahoma
24 and those that were relocated through removal, all contributed to

1 the formation and progress of the State of Oklahoma, and today
2 tribal governments in Oklahoma honor and remember their ancestors'
3 sacrifices and journey to a new land; and

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

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

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

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

23 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature hereby commemorates American
24 Indians and tribal nations through a showing of respect for the

1 losses suffered by American Indians during removal to the State of
2 Oklahoma.

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

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

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10 56-1-6764 SD 02/03/17

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