

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

HOUSE
RESOLUTION 1024

By: Steagall

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution designating March 4, 2024, as Bob Wills Day at the Capitol; celebrating the life and legacy of Oklahoma's son, thanking the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Oklahoma Arts Council for their work; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Bob Wills, born in 1905, began playing fiddle in his youth before moving with his band, the Texas Playboys, to Oklahoma in 1934 to pursue business and creative opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Bob Wills became known as the King of Western Swing as he helped originate and popularize a unique genre of music rooted in folk, jazz, and blues that would lead to the development of rock and roll and modern country music; and

WHEREAS, Bob Wills entertained millions of people during his heyday – performing twice weekly at what would become historic Cain's Ballroom in Tulsa, playing live daily radio broadcasts, touring across the country, and appearing in more than a dozen movies; and

1 WHEREAS, Bob Wills was inducted into the Country Music Hall of
2 Fame in 1968 and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1999, and was
3 named one of the 40 Greatest Men in Country Music by Country Music
4 Television; and

5 WHEREAS, Bob Wills' family has contributed his archival and
6 artifacts collection to the Oklahoma Historical Society to be
7 featured for future generations across from Cain's Ballroom at the
8 forthcoming OKPOP Museum; and

9 WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Arts Council and Oklahoma Historical
10 Society have partnered to revive the tradition of Bob Wills Day at
11 the Capitol, celebrating one of Oklahoma's most significant figures
12 in the history of popular music who continues shining a bright light
13 on our state.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
15 OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 59TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

16 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives recognizes March 4,
17 2024, as Bob Wills Day at the Capitol.

18 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives celebrates the life
19 and legacy of Oklahoma's son, Bob Wills.

20 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives thanks the Oklahoma
21 Arts Council and the Oklahoma Historical Society for their work to
22 honor Bob Wills and revive this special celebration at the Capitol.
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1 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma
2 Arts Council and the Oklahoma Historical Society.

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