

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 59th Legislature (2023)

SENATE
RESOLUTION 20

By: Stephens

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution recognizing the history and tourism behind the Golden Driller; recognizing contributions of Oklahoma's oil and gas industry; recognizing role of John Franklin Stephens Jr.; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the first International Petroleum Exposition and Congress was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1923; and

WHEREAS, the International Petroleum Exposition (IPE) continued to be held in Tulsa to educate workers and the public and serve as a marketplace for new equipment; and

WHEREAS, at the 1953 IPE, the first "Golden Driller" was put on display by the Mid-Continent Supply Company. The Texas company returned in 1959 with a second temporary driller statue; and

WHEREAS, in 1966, the Golden Driller was permanently installed, and the IPE had the largest attendance in the event's history; and

WHEREAS, with an arm resting on an oil derrick and standing at 76 feet and weighing 43,500 pounds, the towering Golden Driller

1 statue became a Tulsa landmark and was named the state monument in
2 1979; and

3 WHEREAS, the Golden Driller was modeled after Sapulpa resident
4 John Franklin Stephens Jr., who was 29 at the time and served as the
5 superintendent of the Golden Driller Project; and

6 WHEREAS, the Driller was dedicated to the men of the petroleum
7 industry and serves as a reminder of Oklahoma's rich history in the
8 oil and gas industry.

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION
10 OF THE 59TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

11 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes the history and
12 tourism behind the state monument, the Golden Driller.

13 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes the contributions of
14 the oil and gas industry to the state's economy and history.

15 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes the role of John
16 Franklin Stephens Jr. in the design and construction of the Golden
17 Driller.

18 THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to the Tulsa
19 Historical Society, Oklahoma History Center, Tulsa Expo Square, and
20 The Petroleum Alliance of Oklahoma.

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