

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

4 HOUSE CONCURRENT
5 RESOLUTION 1008

By: Scott of the House

and

Fields of the Senate

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9 AS INTRODUCED

10 A Concurrent Resolution supporting the development
11 and designation of a Chief Standing Bear Trail.

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14 WHEREAS, Chief Standing Bear was a Chief of the Ponca Tribe,
15 which was relocated by the federal government from Nebraska to
16 Indian Territory in 1877 and relocated again within Indian Territory
17 to a site near present-day Ponca City in 1878; and

18 WHEREAS, the hardship of travel and harsh conditions that befell
19 the Ponca Tribe upon arrival in Indian Territory caused illness and
20 death to many, including the son of Chief Standing Bear; and

21 WHEREAS, having promised to bury his son in the Niobrara River
22 Valley homeland of the Ponca Tribe, Chief Standing Bear and 30
23 members of the Ponca Tribe traveled to Nebraska; and

1 WHEREAS, soon after their arrival the Ponca were arrested for
2 having left the reservation in Indian Territory; and

3 WHEREAS, in 1879, Chief Standing Bear sued for a writ of habeas
4 corpus in the U.S. District Court in Omaha, Nebraska; and

5 WHEREAS, at the trial, Chief Standing Bear spoke these famous
6 words: "That hand is not the color of yours, but if I pierce it, I
7 shall feel pain. If you pierce your hand, you also feel pain. The
8 blood that will flow from mine will be of the same color as yours.
9 I am a man. The same God made us both."; and

10 WHEREAS, in the case, styled as *United States ex rel. Standing*
11 *Bear v. Crook*, Judge Elmer S. Dundy ruled in 1879 that an "Indian is
12 a person" within the meaning of the laws of the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, the case was a landmark case in that it recognized that
14 an Indian is a person under the law; and

15 WHEREAS, the legacy of Chief Standing Bear is well-recognized in
16 Oklahoma as is evidenced by the Standing Bear Park located in Ponca
17 City, Oklahoma, which is dedicated to the memory of Chief Standing
18 Bear.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
20 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE
21 CONCURRING THEREIN:

22 THAT in further recognition of the important role of Chief
23 Standing Bear in American history, the State of Oklahoma supports
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1 the development and designation of a Chief Standing Bear Trail that
2 will extend from Nebraska to Oklahoma.

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4 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.

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