Resolution

ENROLLED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 16

By: Justice, Allen, Anderson, Barrington, Bass, Bice, Bingman, Boggs, Brecheen, Brinkley, Brooks, Brown, Crain, Dahm, David, Fields, Floyd, Ford, Fry, Garrison, Griffin, Halligan, Holt, Jech, Jolley, Loveless, Marlatt, Mazzei, Newberry, Paddack, Pittman, Quinn, Schulz, Sharp, Shaw, Shortey, Silk, Simpson, Smalley, Sparks, Standridge, Stanislawski, Sykes, Thompson, Treat, Wyrick, and Yen of the Senate

and

Osborn, Banz, Bennett, Biggs, Billy, Brown, Brumbaugh, Caldwell, Calvey, Cannaday, Casey, Christian, Cleveland, Cockroft, Condit, Coody (Ann), Coody (Jeff), Cooksey, Cox, Dank, Denney, Derby, Dunlap, Dunnington, Echols, Enns, Faught, Fisher, Fourkiller, Grau, Griffith, Hall, Hardin, Henke, Hickman, Hoskin, Inman, Johnson, Jordan, Joyner, Kannady, Kern, Kirby, Kouplen, Leewright, Lepak, Lockhart, Loring, Martin, Matthews, McBride, McCall, McCullough, McDaniel (Jeannie),

McDaniel (Randy), McPeak, Montgomery, Moore, Morrissette, Mulready, Murdock, Murphey, Nelson, Newell, Nollan, O'Donnell, Ortega, Ownbey, Park, Perryman, Peterson, Pfeiffer, Proctor, Pruett, Renegar, Ritze, Roberts (Dustin), Roberts (Sean), Rogers, Rousselot, Russ, Sanders, Scott, Sears, Shelton, Sherrer, Shoemake, Stone, Strohm, Tadlock, Thomsen, Vaughan, Virgin, Walker, Wallace, Watson, Wesselhoft, Williams, Wood, Wright,and Young of the House

A Concurrent Resolution designating April 14, 2015, as "Dust Bowl Remembrance Day"; applauding the heroic work of the Oklahoma Dust Bowl survivors' farm and ranch families; encouraging the continued adoption of improved conservation practices; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the Dust Bowl of the 1930s is recognized as the greatest man-made ecological disaster of modern times; and

WHEREAS, farming practices ill-suited for the Southern Plains and long-term drought resulted in the dust storms beyond what many believed possible – many so massive they blew beyond our Great Plains to darken the streets of New York and Washington, D.C. So

great were these storms, ships 300 miles from the Atlantic shore were dusted by soil from the farms of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, April 14, 2015, marks the 80th anniversary of "Black Sunday", the largest dust storm of this period, an event so massive, it is estimated this single storm moved more soil in one day than was excavated to build the Panama Canal; and

WHEREAS, although many families were forced to leave the land, the survivors and their families persevered. The families who endured the relentless drought and dust through the Great Depression are heroes to Oklahoma and the nation; and

WHEREAS, through their efforts in partnership with the Soil Conservation Service (now the Natural Resources Conservation Service), Local Conservation Districts and the Oklahoma Conservation Commission, the tide of dust created during the 1930s was turned back. Approximately 1.5 million acres of abandoned farmland was returned to productive agriculture through voluntary, locally led conservation practices; and

WHEREAS, today's drought exceeds that of the 1930s, yet our soils remain productive, our crops sustaining, our air and water refreshing. These facts bear witness to the legacy of our Dust Bowl survivors, who found courage in the horror of Black Sunday and other dust storms and resolved to heal our land. The continued work which these survivors began voluntarily and in partnership with state, local, and federal conservation agencies represents a bastion of progress which the dust shall never surmount.

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

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature designates April 14, 2015, as "Dust Bowl Remembrance Day" in Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature applauds the heroic work undertaken by the Oklahoma Dust Bowl survivors' farm and ranch families to restore and protect our environment while continuing to feed and clothe the nation.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature encourages the continued voluntary adoption of improved conservation practices in an effort to maintain agricultural production while protecting the health of our soil and water resources.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts.

Adopted by the Senate the 13th day of April, 2015.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 14th day of April, 2015.

Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 14th day of April, 2015, at 3:53 o'clock P. M.

By: C. L. Benge

CERTIFICATION

STATE OF OKLAHOMA)
) ss
COUNTY OF OKLAHOMA)

I, Paul Ziriax, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of Enrolled Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 16 as the same was adopted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the 1st Session of the 55th Legislature of the State of Oklahoma, the original hereof being on file in the office of the Secretary of State of the State of Oklahoma.

WITNESS my hand at the State Capitol this 14th day of April, 2015.

Paul Ziriax
Secretary of the Senate