

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6042

A RESOLUTION supporting the development and designation of a continuous Chief Standing Bear Trail from Nebraska to Oklahoma.

WHEREAS, From his birth on the banks of the Niobrara River in Nebraska until his death in 1908, Chief Standing Bear spent his life in a constant struggle to gain equality and justice for our nation's Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, Chief Standing Bear, who is one of Representative Victors' ancestors, and the Ponca Tribe were forced in 1877 by federal treaty to leave their homeland in Nebraska for Indian Territory in what is now Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, The hardship of travel, illness and the conditions of Indian Territory caused many members of the tribe to perish, including Chief Standing Bear's son; and

WHEREAS, Determined to bury his son in his homeland, Chief Standing Bear led 30 members of his tribe back to their home in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Chief Standing Bear became the first Native American to be recognized as a person in a federal court decision rendered in Omaha at the trial following his return to Nebraska. At Chief Standing Bear's trial, he testified on his own behalf, speaking the famous words, "That hand is not the color of yours, but if I prick it, the blood will flow and I shall feel pain. The blood is of the same color as yours. God made me, and I am a man." On May 12, 1879, Judge Elmer S. Dundy ruled that the right of habeas corpus extends to Native Americans, as the right is a natural, inherent and inalienable right; and

WHEREAS, It is essential to raise awareness of historical events in the lives of the original Native American inhabitants of Kansas to promote justice and equality in the United States legal system; and

WHEREAS, A Chief Standing Bear Trail, spanning from Chief Standing Bear's home in Nebraska through Kansas and into Oklahoma, would increase knowledge and awareness of the story of Chief Standing Bear; and

WHEREAS, February 5, 2014, is Native American Day at the Capitol, a day for tribes to visit the statehouse to meet with legislators and bring forth important issues and a day to honor all Native Americans in Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Supporting the development and designation of a Chief Standing Bear Trail that will cross Kansas is part of our celebration of Native American Day at the Capitol: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That we support the development and designation of a continuous Chief Standing Bear Trail from Nebraska to Oklahoma and recognize that the story of original Native American inhabitants is vital to understanding the rich history of Kansas and promoting the cultural well-being of all Kansans.

House Resolution No. 6042 was sponsored by Representative Ponka-We Victors.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

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*Speaker of the House.*

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*Chief Clerk of the House.*