

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

4 HOUSE CONCURRENT
5 RESOLUTION 1004

By: Hoskin

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7
8 AS INTRODUCED

9 A Concurrent Resolution commemorating American
10 Indians and tribal nations through a showing of
11 respect for the losses suffered by American Indians
12 during removal to the State of Oklahoma; directing
13 that a moment of silence be observed in memory of the
14 hardships endured by American Indians during the
15 removal of Indian tribes to Oklahoma; and directing
16 distribution.

17 WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma was previously designated as
18 Indian Territory before statehood in 1907, and is currently the home
19 of 38 federally recognized Indian tribes who have ancestral
20 homelands spanning from coast to coast; and

21 WHEREAS, American Indian people have played an integral role in
22 United States history and have contributed to the success and proud
23 heritage of the State of Oklahoma; and

24 WHEREAS, American Indian tribal nations each have a unique and
 distinguished culture, including languages, spiritual customs,

1 origin stories, music and arts that portray the history and societal
2 structure of each tribe; and

3 WHEREAS, the United States entered into hundreds of treaties
4 with Indian tribes and assumed many responsibilities in exchange for
5 millions of acres of tribal lands; and

6 WHEREAS, the forced relocation of several tribes to Indian
7 Territory, west of the Mississippi River, severely damaged the
8 government-to-government relationship between tribal governments and
9 the federal government; and

10 WHEREAS, the Indian Removal Act, enacted by Congress in 1830 and
11 signed into law by President Andrew Jackson, defied United States
12 Supreme Court decisions and led to the removal of millions of
13 American Indians from their historic homelands; and

14 WHEREAS, due to federal removal policies, tribal nations were
15 forced to travel great distances, through harsh conditions, to
16 modern-day Oklahoma; and

17 WHEREAS, this forced migration resulted in not only the loss of
18 all that the tribal nations owned but also extreme physical
19 suffering and heartbreak, and led to the deaths of thousands of
20 innocent American Indians; and

21 WHEREAS, following forced removal to Indian Territory most
22 tribes were provided false promises and hope for a better life but,
23 as settlers encroached on their new lands, were further displaced
24 without legal protection or representation; and

1 WHEREAS, of the tribes that were already residing in Oklahoma
2 and those that were relocated through removal, all contributed to
3 the formation and progress of the State of Oklahoma, and today
4 tribal governments in Oklahoma honor and remember their ancestors'
5 sacrifices and journey to a new land; and

6 WHEREAS, these tribes have persevered by overcoming the
7 hardships inflicted upon them and rebuilt effective governments
8 which today enable the tribes to provide critical social services
9 for their tribal citizens, including health care, housing and
10 education; and

11 WHEREAS, tribal governments and tribal businesses generate
12 billions of dollars in revenue for core services in Oklahoma and
13 tribes are responsible for creating thousands of jobs, building
14 critical infrastructure and providing economic development
15 opportunities that benefit all Oklahomans; and

16 WHEREAS, due to the immeasurable impact of tribal nations on the
17 success of the State of Oklahoma, it is crucial that we honor and
18 remember the great sacrifices of their ancestors who endured the
19 horrors of the Trail of Tears and other forced removals and that we
20 commemorate their respective journeys to rebuild the great Indian
21 Nations that we know today.

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
23 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 56TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE
24 CONCURRING THEREIN:

1 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature hereby commemorates American
2 Indians and tribal nations through a showing of respect for the
3 losses suffered by American Indians during removal to the State of
4 Oklahoma.

5 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature hereby directs that a moment of
6 silence be observed on February 22, 2017, to commemorate the
7 sacrifices and hardships of all American Indians in Oklahoma.

8 THAT a copy of this resolution be presented and distributed to
9 every federally recognized tribal government in the State of
10 Oklahoma.

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12 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.

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