

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 58th Legislature (2022)

SENATE
RESOLUTION 27

By: Treat, McCortney and
Thompson

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution affirming Oklahoma's historical ties with the people of Ukraine; expressing the state's support for the sovereign nation; condemning the Russian invasion; and asking for prayers for Ukraine.

WHEREAS, Oklahoma has long-standing ties to the Ukraine.

Between 1901 and 1908 seventy immigrants from the western part of modern Ukraine listed Indian Territory as their destination at the port of entry. Immigrants continued to move to Oklahoma in search of better wages and the opportunity to own land; and

WHEREAS, immigrants formed small farming communities around Jones and Harrah in Oklahoma County. In the 1920 census, twenty-six people in that part of the county identified themselves as being born in Ukrainian Russia. In 1919, they built the first Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Oklahoma, St. John Ukrainian National Greek Catholic Church, west of Harrah. After fire destroyed the original building, the congregation in 1950 blessed a new church in Jones, St. Mary of the Dormition Ukrainian Orthodox Church; and

1 WHEREAS, immigrants from what is now Ukraine also settled in the
2 coal-mining region of southeastern Oklahoma, primarily near
3 Hartshorne in Pittsburg County, but also in Coal, Latimer, and Atoka
4 counties; and

5 WHEREAS, immigration from Ukraine continued throughout the
6 1900's. In 1993, Oklahoma Friends of Ukraine was founded, calling
7 for educational, cultural, and supportive activities related to
8 Ukraine and serving as a resource of information about Ukraine's
9 history, people, and customs. By the end of the 20th century,
10 Ukrainian names could be found among doctors, lawyers, teachers,
11 journalists, and other professionals in Oklahoma. Many Oklahomans
12 of Ukrainian heritage still have friends and family in that country.

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2nd SESSION
14 OF THE 58TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

15 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate affirms Oklahoma's long-standing
16 ties with the sovereign democracy of Ukraine, condemns the illegal
17 and violent invasion by Russia, and calls on the people of Oklahoma
18 to offer their prayers for Ukraine and its citizens.