

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

4 HOUSE
5 RESOLUTION 1019

By: Scott

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7
8 AS INTRODUCED

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

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

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

19 WHEREAS, having promised to bury his son in the Niobrara River
20 Valley homeland of the Ponca Tribe, Chief Standing Bear and 65
21 members of the Ponca Tribe travelled to Nebraska; and

22 WHEREAS, soon after their arrival the Ponca were arrested for
23 having left the reservation in Indian Territory; and
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1 WHEREAS, in 1879, Chief Standing Bear sued for a writ of habeas
2 corpus in the U.S. District Court in Omaha, Nebraska; and

3 WHEREAS, at the trial, Chief Standing Bear spoke these famous
4 words: "That hand is not the color of yours, but if I prick it, the
5 blood will flow, and I shall feel pain. The blood is of the same
6 color as yours. God made me, and I am a man."; and

7 WHEREAS, in the case, styled as *United States ex rel. Standing*
8 *Bear v. Crook*, Judge Elmer S. Dundy ruled that an "Indian is a
9 person" in relation to the right of habeas corpus; and

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

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

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
17 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

18 THAT in further recognition of the important role of Chief
19 Standing Bear in American history, the State of Oklahoma supports
20 the development and designation of a Chief Standing Bear Trail that
21 will extend from Nebraska to Oklahoma.

22
23 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.
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