

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 HOUSE
4 RESOLUTION 1019

By: Scott

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6
7 AS INTRODUCED

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

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

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

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

21 WHEREAS, soon after their arrival the Ponca were arrested for
22 having left the reservation in Indian Territory; and

23 WHEREAS, in 1879, Chief Standing Bear sued for a writ of habeas
24 corpus in the U.S. District Court in Omaha, Nebraska; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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21 55-1-6941 SD 03/09/15

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