Resolution

ENROLLED HOUSE
RESOLUTION NO. 1080

By: Hoskin, Brown, Armes, Auffet, Bailey, Banz, Benge, Billy, Blackwell, Brannon, Buck, Cannaday, Carey, Christian, Collins, Coody, Cooksey, Cox, Dank, Denney, Derby, DeWitt, Dorman, Duncan, Enns, Faught, Fields, Glenn, Hamilton, Harrison, Hickman, Hilliard, Holland, Inman, Jackson, Jett, Johnson, Jones, Jordan, Joyner, Kern, Key, Kiesel, Kirby, Kouplen, Lamons, Liebmann, Luttrell, Martin (Scott), Martin (Steve), McAffrey, McCullough, McDaniel (Jeannie), McDaniel (Randy), McNiel, McPeak, Miller, Moore, Morgan, Morrissette, Murphey, Nations, Nelson, Ortega, Osborn, Ownbey, Peters, Peterson, Pittman, Proctor, Pruett, Renegar, Reynolds, Richardson, Ritze, Roan, Rousselot, Russ, Sanders, Schwartz, Scott, Sears, Shannon, Shelton, Sherrer, Shoemake, Shumate, Smithson, Steele, Sullivan, Terrill, Thompson, Thomsen, Tibbs, Trebilcock, Walker, Watson, Wesselhoft, Williams, Wright (Harold) and Wright (John)

A Resolution commending the life of Wilma Mankiller; offering condolences; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Wilma Mankiller was born at Hastings Indian Hospital in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, in 1945, and grew up with few amenities; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 10, Wilma Mankiller and her family moved to San Francisco, California, as part of the Bureau of Indian

Affairs Relocation Program where she lived for two decades before returning to Oklahoma in 1977; and

WHEREAS, Mankiller lived on the Mankiller family allotment in the Cherokee Nation with her husband, Charlie Soap; and

WHEREAS, Mankiller was the mother of two daughters, Gina and Felicia; and

WHEREAS, her roots were planted deep in the rural community of Mankiller Flats in Adair County, Oklahoma, where she spent most of her life; and

WHEREAS, Wilma Mankiller was the founding director of the Cherokee Nation Community Development Department, which received several national awards for innovative use of self-help in housing and water projects for low-income Cherokee communities; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Mankiller was elected the first female deputy chief of the Cherokee Nation and president of the tribal council; and

WHEREAS, In 1987, Mankiller was elected to serve as the first female Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, she was overwhelmingly re-elected in 1991 and chose not to seek re-election in 1995; and

WHEREAS, during her 10-year tenure as principal chief, Mankiller met with Presidents Reagan, Bush and Clinton to present critical tribal issues, and she and Navajo Nation President Peterson Zah cochaired a national conference between tribal leaders and cabinet members which helped facilitate the establishment of an Office of Indian Justice within the United States Department of Justice; and

WHEREAS, her tenure was marked by a great deal of new development, including several new free-standing health clinics, an $11-million Job Corps Center, and greatly expanded services for children and youth; and

WHEREAS, Mankiller also led the team that developed the core businesses which comprise the Cherokee Nation Enterprises; and

WHEREAS, Mankiller received many awards and honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Clinton; and

WHEREAS, Mankiller was also an author, publishing several works including *Every Day is a Good Day* in 2004, *Mankiller: A Chief and Her People* in 1993, *A Readers Companion to the History of Women in the United States*, co-edited in 1998 and an essay for *Native Universe*, the inaugural publication of the National Museum of the American Indian; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, Mankiller served on several philanthropic boards, including twelve years on the board of trustees of the Ford Foundation, four years on the board of the Ms. Foundation for Women, and four years on the board of the Seventh Generation Fund; and

WHEREAS, in addition she was serving on the board of the Freedom Forum as well as its subsidiary, the Newseum, a $400-million museum of the news located on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., with a mission to educate the public about the value of a free press in a free society and tell the stories of the important events in the world in unique and engaging ways; and

WHEREAS, over the years Mankiller presented more than one hundred lectures on the challenges facing Native Americans and women in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 Mankiller served as the Wayne Morse Professor at the University of Oregon, where she and Dr. Rennard Strickland taught a class on tribal government, law and life; and

WHEREAS, this outstanding American passed away on April 6, 2010, at the age of 64 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives hereby commends the full life and many accomplishments of this outstanding Oklahoma-born author, lecturer and former principal chief of the Cherokee Nation, the late Wilma Mankiller.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives offers its most sincere condolences to the surviving Mankiller family.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Wilma Mankiller's husband, Charlie Soap.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 7th day of April, 2010.

Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Secretary of State this 8th **day of** April, **20** 10, **at** 10:48 **o'clock** A. **M.**

By: