Resolution

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 83

By: Coates, Adelson, Aldridge, Anderson, Ballenger, Barrington, Bass, Bingman, Branan, Brogdon, Brown, Burrage, Coffee, Corn, Crain, Crutchfield, Easley, Eason McIntyre, Ellis, Ford, Garrison, Gumm, Halligan, Ivester, Johnson (Constance), Johnson (Mike), Jolley, Justice, Lamb, Laster, Leftwich, Lerblance, Marlatt, Mazzei, Myers, Newberry, Nichols, Paddack, Reynolds, Rice, Russell, Schulz, Sparks, Stanislawski, Sweeden, Sykes, Wilson and Wyrick

A Resolution honoring Dawn Welch; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Dawn Welch, a graduate of Yukon High School, used to work with Garth Brooks at Ken's Pizza. Garth used to play practical jokes on her which may explain why Dawn spent some time following her graduation working on cruise ships around the world before returning to Oklahoma. When she returned, Dawn Welch settled in Stroud, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, the Rock Café was opened in 1939 by its original owner, Roy Rieves. In 1993 Dawn Welch became the fourth owner of the restaurant located on Route 66 at 114 West Main Street in Stroud, Oklahoma, midway between Tulsa and Oklahoma City. In 2002, thanks

to four years of effort by Dawn Welch, the Rock Café was added to the National Register of Historic Places. However, Welch lost everything when the building burned down on May 20, 2008. In just over a year, thanks to her determination and persistence, the Rock Café was rebuilt with the guidance of an historic preservationist and with rocks excavated during the construction of Route 66. The January 2010 edition of "Oklahoma Living" published by the Electric Cooperatives of Oklahoma featured a picture of Dawn Welch and the Rock Café on its cover and named the Rock Café "Best Oklahoma diner;" and

WHEREAS, movie executives from Pixar visited the Rock Café in preparation for their 2006 animated movie "Cars". Dawn Welch inspired the character Sally Carrera, a blue Porsche, who runs the Cozy Cone Motel in the animated Disney film. After the café burned down, John Lasseter, director of the movie, sent her memorabilia from the film to redecorate the Rock Café; and

WHEREAS, cuisine at the Rock Café includes buffalo and alligator burgers, chicken fried steak, fried pickles, and bread pudding. Her background as a chef led Dawn Welch to author "Dollars to Donuts: Comfort Food and Kitchen Wisdom From Route 66's Landmark Rock Café" published by Rodale. Not just a cookbook, but a guide to operating a cost-effective home kitchen, it has brought both Dawn Welch and the Rock Café more recognition and publicity. Dawn appeared on the NBC-TV "Today" show on Thursday, January 21, 2009, where she discussed the book and prepared a three cheese white lasagna; and

WHEREAS, on New Year's Eve, December 31, 2009, Dawn Welch, owner of the historic Rock Café, was named Woman of the Year by the "Oklahoman" newspaper; and

WHEREAS, Dawn Welch's daughter, Alexis Herr, is presently serving as a page with the Oklahoma State Senate.

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

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate honors Dawn Welch for her perseverance throughout life; promotion of Stroud, Route 66, and the State of Oklahoma; and her many personal accomplishments.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Dawn Welch and her daughter, Alexis Herr.

Adopted by the Senate the 4th day of February, 2010.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Secretary of State this 8th **day of** February, **20** 10, **at** 2:29 **o'clock** P **M.**

By: M. Susan Lawrence