

# STATE OF OKLAHOMA



## EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

# Proclamation

**Whereas**, Ms. Lena Bennett will long be remembered for her civic advocacy in the Tulsa community; and

**Whereas**, Ms. Bennett was raised by her grandparents, in Little Rock, Arkansas, and went on to graduate from both Clark College in Atlanta, Georgia, and with a master's degree from Oklahoma State University; and

**Whereas**, for more than 50 years, Ms. Bennett labored, advocated and benefitted the many who needed a voice - prisoners, minorities, underprivileged youth, the elderly and the developmentally disabled – fulfilling her desire to make life better for others; and

**Whereas**, one of Ms. Bennett's heralded efforts came as the first black woman to serve on the Oklahoma Crime Commission, where she went undercover, posing as a prisoner to review intake procedures at correctional facilities for women. Later, her report would assist the state in constructing the Mabel Bassett Correctional Facility for Women; and

**Whereas**, Ms. Bennett also served on the boards of Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry, Tulsa Senior Services and Tulsa Technology Center, and helped establish the Margaret Hudson Program for pregnant and parenting teens; and

**Whereas**, Ms. Bennett as a leader and mentor has been attributed to creating a calmness, making all those around her comfortable with her gentle spirit as well as a transformer, opening eyes to justices and injustices alike and further possessing an influence that compels others to succeed; and

**Whereas**, it is appropriate to honor Lena Bennett and her legacy of selfless service to the state's most vulnerable citizenry;

**Now, Therefore, I, Mary Fallin, Governor**, do hereby proclaim April 17, 2015 as

### **"Lena Bennett Remembrance Day"**

in the state of Oklahoma.

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Oklahoma to be affixed.*



*Done at the Capitol, in the City of Oklahoma City, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, in the Year of Our Lord two thousand and fifteen, and of the State of Oklahoma in the one hundred and seventh year.*

ATTEST:

*C. Benge*  
SECRETARY OF STATE

*Mary Fallin*  
GOVERNOR

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