CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION NO. 940301
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. GF15-07

AS INTRODUCED
A Joint Resolution relating to Indigenous Peoples’ Day; declaring the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples’ Day at The University of Oklahoma; encouraging other institutions to recognize the Day; and reaffirming the University’s commitment to promote the well-being and growth of The University of Oklahoma’s American Indian and Indigenous community; and providing for distribution.

Whereas: The University of Oklahoma has been encouraged to designate the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples’ Day; and

Whereas: The University of Oklahoma does not recognize, observe, or celebrate Columbus Day; and

Whereas: The University of Oklahoma recognizes that the Indigenous Peoples of the lands that would later become known as the Americas have occupied these lands since time immemorial; and

Whereas: The University of Oklahoma recognizes that Indigenous Peoples first inhabited the lands that would later become known as Oklahoma; and

Whereas: The University of Oklahoma acknowledges that designating the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples’ Day is a proactive and positive step toward restoring justice and trust with the Indigenous Peoples’ community; and

Whereas: The University of Oklahoma values the many contributions made to its community through Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge, labor, technology, science, philosophy, arts and the deep cultural contribution that has substantially shaped the character of the University of Oklahoma; and

Whereas: The University of Oklahoma promotes the pursuit of education regarding Indigenous Peoples history, culture, and civilization; and

Whereas: The University of Oklahoma encourages others to recognize and celebrate Indigenous Peoples, their history, culture and civilization; and

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Whereas: The Student Body feels that the University of Oklahoma has a responsibility to oppose the systematic racism towards Indigenous People in the United States, which perpetuates high rates of poverty and income inequality, exacerbating disproportionate health, education, and social crises; and

Whereas: The state of Oklahoma has the 2nd largest population of indigenous people in the nation and since 2012 the enrollment rate of Native American students at the University of Oklahoma has decreased significantly, demonstrating the lack of welcoming environment and resources available for Native students; the University of Oklahoma aims to serve, recruit, and retain indigenous people as students, staff, and faculty, Indigenous Peoples’ Day will contribute to creating a welcoming environment and informing students about available resources;

Whereas: The Student Body feels that the University of Oklahoma should actively promote the closing of the equity gap for Indigenous Peoples through policies and practices that reflect the experiences of Indigenous Peoples, ensure greater access and opportunity, and honor our nation’s indigenous roots, history, and contribution;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION THAT:

Section 1: The Student Body requests that the University of Oklahoma declare the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples’ Day to become a celebration of the culture of all Indigenous Peoples and have University Programming Calendars include Indigenous Peoples’ Day in the future.

Section 2: Furthermore, the Student Government Association requests that student organizations and administration direct funding to the organization of Indigenous Peoples’ Day and the events that occur at that time.

Section 3: Copies of this resolution will be sent to:
• David L. Boren, President of the University of Oklahoma
• Jabar Shumate, Vice President for the University Community
• Kristen Partridge, Associate Dean of Students and Director of Student Life
• Mary Fallin, Governor of Oklahoma
• Senator John Sparks
• Senator Rob Standridge
• Representative Claudia Griffith
• Representative Emily Virgin
• Representative Scott Martin
• OU Daily
• OU Nightly
• Norman Transcript
• Native News Online
• Indian Country Media Network

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• *Last Real Indians*
  
• Jen Tregarthen, Public Relations and Marketing Officer at Sam Noble Museum
• Edwina Butler Wolfe, Governor of Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
• Sarah Adams-Cornell, Sitting Member of the Oklahoma City Choctaw Tribal Alliance
• Dwanna Robinson, Muscogee Creek Nation
• Chief Tiger of Muscogee Creek Nation
• Chloe Tadlock, Campus Activities Council Chair
• Sherri Irvin, Co-Director of Center for Social Justice
• Amanda Cobb-Greetham, Director of Native American Studies Department at the University of Oklahoma

Authors:

• Ashley McCray, (Absentee Shawnee, Oglala/Sicangu Lakota) Indigenize OU Leader
• Sydne Gray (Mvskoke Creek) Indigenize OU Leader
• Jesse Robbins (Chahta) Indigenize OU Leader
• Joshua Murphy (Chahta) Indigenize OU Leader
• Carrie Pavlowsky, Chair of the Graduate Student Senate
• Emily Sample, Chair of Undergraduate Student Congress
• Janessa Doucette, Vice Chair of the Graduate Student Senate
• Jonathan Merlini, Chair of the GSS Human Diversity Committee
• Daniel Pae, Chair of the Congress Human Diversity Committee
• Nathan Thompson, Legislative Assistant to the Executive Branch and Congress Problems and Projects Chair

Co-Sponsor: Chelsea Brown, Vice Chair of the Undergraduate Student Congress  
Kaylee Rains, Secretary of the Undergraduate Student Congress  
Nathan Kapoor, Department History of Science Senator

Submitted on a motion by: Representative Lefler, seconded by Representative Echols  
Action taken by Congress: Passed by a roll call vote 28-3-5
 Verified by Chair of Congress: ________________________________ Date: ________
 Submitted on a Motion by: Senator Kapoor, second by Senator Nijhawan  
Action taken by Senate: Passed by unanimous consent
 Verified by Chair of Senate: ________________________________ Date: ________
 Approved by SGA President: ________________________________ Date: ________