

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1867

A RESOLUTION congratulating Chief Bearskin on his service to all citizens
in the State of Kansas and the United States of America.

WHEREAS, Chief Leaford Bearskin has distinguished himself and the Wyandotte Nation with his outstanding service to the Wyandotte Tribe and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Chief Leaford Bearskin is retiring on May 31, 2011 after serving 28 years as Principal Chief of the Wyandotte Nation, and in recognition of his outstanding service and dedication to all citizens in the Wyandotte Nation and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Wyandotte Nation Chief Leaford Bearskin was born September 11, 1921 on his parents' allotment of land in northeast Oklahoma. He was reared and educated in the Wyandotte, Oklahoma area, graduating from high school in 1939; and

WHEREAS, Immediately following graduation, Chief Leaford Bearskin entered military service and made it a lifetime career where he received numerous commendations for his heroic service. After basic training, he was first assigned to Alaska as a crew chief in World War II. Chief Leaford Bearskin then entered flying cadet school and after receiving his pilot wings, entered heavy bombardment training. Chief Leaford Bearskin was sent to New Guinea as an aircraft commander on a B-24 Liberator Bomber. Altogether, Chief Leaford Bearskin flew 46 combat missions in heavy bombers; and

WHEREAS, Chief Leaford Bearskin's next assignment was to train heavy bomber crews in various phases of warfare before going to Japan as a ground force officer. He was a squadron commander, director of material and deputy commander at a fighter base in Georgia. From this base, he participated in the first flight of jet fighter aircraft across the Pacific. Chief Leaford Bearskin was Air Base Group Commander in support of this flight; and

WHEREAS, After graduating from a Staff Logistics Course at the Air University, Montgomery, Alabama, he was assigned to a Squadron Commander's position in Korea. His next assignment was as Squadron Commander and Assistant Headquarters Commandant at Strategic Air Command headquarters, Omaha, Nebraska, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He retired from the Air Force at Omaha in 1960; and

WHEREAS, After retirement from the United States Air Force, he began his second career in federal civil service, as Chief of Vehicle and Aerospace Ground Equipment in the First Strategic Aerospace Division at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California. There, Chief Leaford Bearskin was responsible for the supervision of the utilization and maintenance of automotive equipment and for the testing, monitoring and analyzing of ground handling equipment for the Atlas, Titan and Minuteman missile weapons systems; and

WHEREAS, Chief Leaford Bearskin later moved to March Air Force Base, California, as Chief, Traffic Management Branch, Directorate of Transportation, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force. With his promotion to Deputy Director, as a GS-13, he was responsible for the monitoring and development of transportation systems in support of nineteen Air Force bases throughout the western United States; and

WHEREAS, In 1969, Chief Leaford Bearskin was promoted to Deputy Director, Directorate of Logistic Plans in the same headquarters. He was second in charge of a plans organization which supervised the planning and operation of material requirements to support war plans for bomber and missile weapons systems located throughout the western states and in several overseas locations; and

WHEREAS, In 1970, Chief Leaford Bearskin was assigned as Executive Officer to the Director of Operations, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force. He was the Administrative Manager for seven major directorates within the Fifteenth Air Force headquarters, and nineteen Air Force bases; and

WHEREAS, Chief Leaford Bearskin retired from federal civil service in 1979, having served forty-one years in government service. He and his wife, Barbara Cannon Bearskin, moved to his native Wyandotte, Oklahoma, where they built their retirement home on Grand Lake O' the Cherokees. He is the father of two children and has six grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, In September 1983, he was elected Chief of the Wyandotte Nation, where he has rededicated all efforts to the objective of better service to his people. He has steadily served in the capacity of Chief and is currently in his twenty-third year of service to the tribe and community. Vast improvements in health care, education, adult services, employment, emergency services, culture and heritage are the result of his many achievements. Chief Leaford Bearskin has led his people into various financial ventures that have made the tribe self sufficient: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we hereby proclaim Chief Leaford Bearskin a Kansan at heart and congratulate Chief Leaford Bearskin on his service to all citizens in the State of Kansas and the United States of America; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send an enrolled copy of this resolution to Senator Haley.

Senate Resolution No. 1867 was sponsored by Senator David Haley.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.