

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 HOUSE CONCURRENT  
4 RESOLUTION 1005

By: Banz

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7 AS INTRODUCED

8 A Concurrent Resolution commemorating the 800th  
9 anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta; and  
10 affirming the importance of Magna Carta.

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12 WHEREAS, June 15, 2015, will mark the 800th anniversary of the  
13 signing of Magna Carta in Runnymede Meadow near Windsor, England;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, in 1215, Magna Carta merely gave expression to a  
16 political settlement between rebellious English barons and a  
17 recalcitrant king; however, in succeeding centuries this great  
18 document came to be considered a "talisman of liberty", giving  
19 impetus to the rule of law and constitutional government; and

20 WHEREAS, by means of a minor wording change in the final version  
21 of the document, the substitution of the term "any freeman" for "any  
22 baron", Magna Carta became the basis for the idea of natural and  
23 inalienable rights for all citizens; and  
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1       WHEREAS, Magna Carta was one of the earliest written expressions  
2 of natural and inalienable rights, laying some of the theoretical  
3 groundwork for the English Bill of Rights of 1689, the American  
4 Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution and Bill  
5 of Rights, and the Oklahoma Constitution; and

6       WHEREAS, Magna Carta embodied the concept of right to due  
7 process of law, now considered to be a basic tenet of freedom, and  
8 contained the first written definition of habeas corpus; and

9       WHEREAS, Magna Carta contained the idea of consent of the  
10 governed, leading eventually to representative government in the  
11 form of the British Parliament, the American colonial assemblies,  
12 the Continental Congress, the United States Congress, and the state  
13 and territorial legislatures; and

14       WHEREAS, more importantly, Magna Carta aided in the  
15 establishment of the notion that all persons, whether king,  
16 president or magistrate, are subject to the rule of law,  
17 acknowledging the sovereignty of the people and securing individual  
18 liberty against the arbitrary whims of a tyrant; and

19       WHEREAS, our Founding Fathers, well aware of the history and  
20 tradition of Magna Carta, relied heavily on this document in the  
21 formation of America's great expressions of freedom - the  
22 Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution.

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1       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
2 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE  
3 CONCURRING THEREIN:

4       THAT the Oklahoma Legislature, on behalf of the people of the  
5 State of Oklahoma, hereby commemorates the 800th anniversary of the  
6 signing of Magna Carta and affirms Magna Carta as a transcendent  
7 symbol of limited government and freedom under the law, a document  
8 of immeasurable importance in the formation of the ideals that led  
9 to the establishment of our great country.

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