

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

4 HOUSE
5 RESOLUTION 1015

By: Thomsen

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8 AS INTRODUCED

9 A Resolution proclaiming April 2, 2015, as FCA Day in
10 Oklahoma; commending certain individuals; and
11 directing distribution.

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13 WHEREAS, in 1947 the idea of athletes using their influence to
14 endorse Jesus Christ began in Stillwater, Oklahoma, in the heart of
15 Don McClanen as a young student manager for legendary Oklahoma A&M
16 basketball coach, Hank Iba; and

17 WHEREAS, a few years later while Mr. McClanen was head
18 basketball coach at Eastern Oklahoma Junior College in Wilburton,
19 Oklahoma, the idea turned into a vision "to see the world impacted
20 for Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes"; and

21 WHEREAS, in 1954 his vision was transformed into an official
22 Oklahoma not-for-profit corporation in Norman, Oklahoma, named the
23 Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) with the sole mission "to
24 present to coaches and athletes, and all whom they influence, the

1 challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and
2 Lord, serving Him in their relationships, and in the fellowship of
3 the church"; and

4 WHEREAS, a key to the strong beginning of FCA was the
5 endorsement of great men of faith in college and professional
6 sports, including University of Oklahoma Head Football Coach Bud
7 Wilkinson who, after a spring practice in 1956, introduced FCA to
8 his team through the testimony of Doak Walker, Otto Graham and
9 Pepper Martin; and

10 WHEREAS, through Coach Wilkinson's influence core members of his
11 football team like Clendon Thomas and Chuck Bowman attended the
12 first FCA Summer Camp in 1956 in Estes Park, Colorado, a camp with
13 two hundred fifty-six college athletes that focused on "Inspiration
14 and Perspiration"; and

15 WHEREAS, from its origin in Oklahoma and due to the bold vision,
16 leadership and faith of Oklahoma coaches and athletes like Don
17 McClanen, Bud Wilkinson, Clendon Thomas, Chuck Bowman and countless
18 others the Fellowship of Christian Athletes has spread throughout
19 the United States and into forty-four countries internationally.

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
21 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

22 THAT Thursday, April 2, 2015, is hereby proclaimed as FCA Day in
23 Oklahoma in honor of the impact Oklahoma has had on the world
24 through the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

1 THAT Don McClanen, Bud Wilkinson, Clendon Thomas and Chuck
2 Bowman are to be commended for being instrumental in the influence
3 of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

4 THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to Chuck Bowman,
5 Clendon Thomas and Jay Wilkinson, son of Bud Wilkinson.

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7 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.

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