

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 56th Legislature (2017)

3 HOUSE  
4 RESOLUTION 1020

By: Biggs

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6  
7 AS INTRODUCED

8 A Resolution recognizing the leadership of James Dean  
9 Harrel; congratulating and honoring James Dean Harrel  
10 for his public service to Oklahoma's agriculture  
community and FFA and 4-H members; and directing  
distribution.

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13 WHEREAS, rancher, businessman, leader and promoter of  
14 agriculture, James Dean "Jimmy" Harrel, is the CEO and Chairman of  
15 the Board of Directors of the Bank of Western Oklahoma; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Harrel was raised on a ranch in Roger Mills County  
17 and has always been interested in agriculture, business and in  
18 making rural Oklahoma a better place in which to live and work; and

19 WHEREAS, as a young boy, he learned to ride and rope, farm on a  
20 Ford tractor and tend to horses and cattle alongside his father and  
21 would have loved to spend his life that way. However, his  
22 competitive nature, strong inner drive, and love for the rural way  
23 of life led him to a career of service instead; and  
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1       WHEREAS, Mr. Harrel attended a small country school before  
2 moving to the town of Leedey, Oklahoma, and graduated high school  
3 with a class of 18. Thereafter, he attended Oklahoma State  
4 University; and

5       WHEREAS, his experiences as a vocational agriculture instructor,  
6 classroom teacher and basketball coach instilled in him a love for  
7 young people; and

8       WHEREAS, Mr. Harrel entered the world of banking in 1985 with  
9 the goal of helping farmers and ranchers, especially young people  
10 beginning their careers in agriculture, and keeping agriculture a  
11 vital part of Oklahoma's and the nation's economies; and

12       WHEREAS, Mr. Harrel helped improve rural Oklahoma by serving on  
13 a state task force team, attending national budget planning meetings  
14 in Washington, D.C., serving on the State Opinion Leaders Team and  
15 representing our state in Mexico as a member of the Economic Trade  
16 Leadership team; and

17       WHEREAS, his service on the Lieutenant Governor's Business  
18 Advisory Council and most recently on a panel for FDIC economic  
19 discussions for the respective local region furthered his  
20 understanding of Oklahoma's economic opportunities; and

21       WHEREAS, Mr. Harrel was recognized for his contributions to the  
22 state's economic growth when he received a Presidential Citation  
23 from President Bill Clinton in 1993 and was named an Honorary  
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1 Oklahoma Secretary of State by then Secretary of State Tom Cole in  
2 1997; and

3 WHEREAS, he also served his local community as a member of the  
4 Leedey City Council and on local and county fair boards and received  
5 a commendation of appreciation from the town of Leedey for his  
6 efforts in obtaining funds to support the fire station, establishing  
7 a clinic in Leedey to service the local medical needs and updating  
8 sidewalks and improving highways throughout the town. A stretch of  
9 Highway 34 south of Leedey has been named in his honor; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Harrel has been a fixture in the American Quarter  
11 Horse industry and contributed to the development and promotion of  
12 quarter horse racing in the state of Oklahoma and across the nation.  
13 He has had several champion horses and was chosen for special  
14 interviews by an Oklahoma City TV channel for promotion of the race  
15 horse industry when Remington Park Race Track and pari-mutuel racing  
16 were being established in Oklahoma; and

17 WHEREAS, Governor David Walters appointed Mr. Harrel to serve on  
18 the Oklahoma State Board of Agriculture noting his insight about the  
19 importance of agriculture in the state's welfare and economy; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Harrel's dedication to the principle that all young  
21 people in Oklahoma should have a chance to receive a higher  
22 education at an affordable price prompted Governor Walters to also  
23 appoint him to the Oklahoma Board of Regents for Oklahoma State  
24 University and A&M Colleges. Governors Frank Keating and Brad Henry

1 appointed him to successive terms to the Oklahoma Regents for Higher  
2 Education where he currently serves; and

3 WHEREAS, his youth experiences in the FFA and 4-H inspired him  
4 to relentlessly support these valuable programs. He received an  
5 honorary state FFA degree and an honorary FFA degree from seven  
6 chapters in western Oklahoma. He is a recipient of the Oklahoma and  
7 National FFA Association Outstanding Alumni Awards. He was also  
8 awarded the National FFA Association's Businessman of the Year; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Harrel continues to advocate that the FFA and 4-H  
10 programs offer life lessons in the development of leadership,  
11 responsibility, strong work ethic and a sense of self-worth. He is  
12 well known for his mentoring and leadership as he encourages young  
13 people to become future leaders in their communities and state; and

14 WHEREAS, his knowledge of livestock makes Mr. Harrel a valued  
15 participant at local, district and state livestock shows and he was  
16 named an Oklahoma Youth Expo Show Honoree in 2005, a distinction  
17 reserved for those who significantly contribute to the success of  
18 the world's largest junior livestock show over a period of many  
19 years; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Harrel loves the State of Oklahoma and believes  
21 strongly in the future of our state. His outstanding state  
22 leadership, efforts to support agriculture and encouragement to  
23 Oklahoma's youth are desired qualities of any great Oklahoman; and  
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1       WHEREAS, Mr. Harrel served on the Oklahoma Wildlife Commission  
2 as Chairman where he led an effort to rescue additional land for  
3 public hunting and fishing.

4       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
5 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 56TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

6       THAT the Oklahoma Legislature recognizes the excellent  
7 leadership of James Dean Harrel.

8       THAT the Oklahoma Legislature congratulates and honors James  
9 Harrel for over 30 years of public service to Oklahoma's agriculture  
10 community and thousands of young FFA and 4-H members.

11       THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to James Dean  
12 Harrel.

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14       56-1-7940       AMM       05/12/17

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