

# Resolution

ENROLLED HOUSE  
RESOLUTION NO. 1020

By: Biggs and Sanders

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

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

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

WHEREAS, as a young boy, he learned to ride and rope, farm on a Ford tractor and tend to horses and cattle alongside his father and would have loved to spend his life that way. However, his competitive nature, strong inner drive, and love for the rural way of life led him to a career of service instead; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harrel attended a small country school before moving to the town of Leedey, Oklahoma, and graduated high school with a class of 18. Thereafter, he attended Oklahoma State University; and

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Harrel entered the world of banking in 1985 with the goal of helping farmers and ranchers, especially young people

beginning their careers in agriculture, and keeping agriculture a vital part of Oklahoma's and the nation's economies; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Harrel loves the State of Oklahoma and believes strongly in the future of our state. His outstanding state leadership, efforts to support agriculture and encouragement to Oklahoma's youth are desired qualities of any great Oklahoman; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Harrel served on the Oklahoma Wildlife Commission as Chairman where he led an effort to rescue additional land for public hunting and fishing.

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

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

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

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

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 18th day of May,  
2017.

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Presiding Officer of the House of  
Representatives

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this \_\_\_\_\_  
day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.  
By: \_\_\_\_\_