



Council of the Cherokee Nation

Cherokee Nation Tribal
Council
17763 S. Muskogee Ave.
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Legislation Text

File #: 10-050, Version: 1

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FORMER PRINCIPAL CHIEF WILMA PEARL MANKILLER AS A NATIONAL TREASURE OF THE CHEROKEE NATION

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation since time immemorial has exercised the sovereign rights of self-government in behalf of the Cherokee people;

WHEREAS, the Cherokee Nation is a federally recognized Indian Nation with a historic and continual government to government relationship with the United States of America;

WHEREAS, Wilma P. Mankiller, a Native of Mankiller Flats, Adair County, Oklahoma, passed from this life on April 6, 2010;

WHEREAS, Wilma P. Mankiller served as Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation from 1985 through 1995;

WHEREAS, Wilma P. Mankiller was the first female elected to lead a major Native American Tribe;

WHEREAS, Wilma P. Mankiller served her people with great distinction and worked tirelessly to improve the lives of Cherokee citizens;

WHEREAS, under Wilma P. Mankiller's decisive leadership, the Cherokee Nation reclaimed important rights to self govern, re-established its criminal and civil jurisdiction, and made key innovations in Health and Community Development.

WHEREAS, Wilma P. Mankiller was an internationally known advocate for the rights of all Native Peoples and was a champion for the rights of women around the world;

WHEREAS, during her 10-year tenure as Principal Chief, Wilma P. Mankiller met with Presidents Reagan, Bush and Clinton to present critical tribal issues and helped facilitate the establishment of an office of Indian Justice within the United States Department of Justice;

WHEREAS, Wilma P. Mankiller received numerous awards and honors, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President William J. Clinton;

WHEREAS, Wilma P. Mankiller was instrumental in strengthening the Cherokee Nation and was greatly responsible for making the Cherokee Nation government an example of excellence for all Native American Tribes.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CHEROKEE NATION, that the Cherokee Nation hereby recognizes former Principal Chief Wilma Pearl Mankiller as a National Treasure of the Cherokee Nation for her cultural contribution, leadership and statesmanship to the Cherokee people.