

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 5021

AN CONCURRENT RESOLUTION proposing to name the new state office building the Charles Curtis State Office Building.

WHEREAS, The state has nearly completed construction of a new office building on the southwest corner of the junction of Kansas Avenue and 10th Street in Topeka, and it is appropriate that this building be named after former Vice-President Charles Curtis; and

WHEREAS, Charles Curtis was born January 25, 1860, in North Topeka; and

WHEREAS, Charles Curtis was the great-great-grandson of Chief White Plume, a chief of the Kansa/Kaw tribe. After his mother died he was sent to live with his maternal grandmother, Julie Conville Pappan, on the Kansa/Kaw Indian reservation in Morris County. He lived in a tipi on the reservation for eight years, and although he attended a mission school, didn't learn to read or write until he was nine years old; and

WHEREAS, Charles Curtis read law in Topeka and was admitted to the Kansas bar at age 21. He was elected County Attorney for Shawnee County at age 24, earning a reputation as a tough and impartial prosecutor often quoted as saying "If you don't want the laws enforced, don't vote for me"; and

WHEREAS, Subsequently Charles Curtis served in the United States House of Representatives from 1893-1907, and in the United States Senate from 1907-1913 and again from 1915-1929; and

WHEREAS, Charles Curtis served as Majority Leader of the United States Senate from 1925-1929; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his Congressional career, Charles Curtis sought to advance the causes of Native Americans, farmers and women's rights, playing an influential role in the passage of the 19th amendment to the United State Constitution granting women the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, Charles Curtis is credited with preventing the closing of Ft. Riley and Ft. Leavenworth following the end of World War I; and

WHEREAS, Charles Curtis ran for President of the United States in 1928, losing his party's nomination to Herbert Hoover at the Republican National Convention held in Kansas City; and

WHEREAS, Charles Curtis was subsequently nominated and served as the 31st Vice-President of the United States from 1929-1933; and

WHEREAS, Charles Curtis, having held public office for 38 years, is the highest elected native Kansan, and the only person of Native American descent, to hold the office of Vice-President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Charles Curtis died in Washington, D.C. on February 8, 1936, and was honored by his state with the only funeral service ever held in the Kansas statehouse. A plaque dedicated to his memory is located on the south steps of the capitol; and

WHEREAS, It is entirely fitting to name our new office building after Charles Curtis. He was our first statesman with Native American ancestry. He represented the state with great distinction for many years in Washington, and locally his home and law office are within sight of the new office building: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas, the Senate concurring therein: That the new state office building should be named and designated as the Charles Curtis State Office Building; and

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Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send enrolled copies of this resolution to the Governor and the Secretary of Administration.

I hereby certify that the above CONCURRENT RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.

Adopted by the SENATE _____

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.