

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5021

By Representatives Gordon, Mays, Aday, Alldritt, Ballard, Ballou, Barnes, Benlon, Bethell, Boston, Burroughs, Campbell, Compton, Cook, Cox, Crow, Dahl, DeCastro, DiVita, Dreher, Edmonds, Faber, Findley, Flaharty, Flora, Gatewood, Gilbert, Glasscock, Grant, Hayzlett, Henderson, Hermes, Horst, Howell, Huebert, Huff, Humerickhouse, Hutchins, Huy, Johnson, Kauffman, Kirk, Kuether, Landwehr, Lane, Light, Lloyd, Loganbill, M. Long, P. Long, Loyd, Mason, Mayans, McClure, McCreary, McKinney, McLeland, Merrick, Miller, Minor, Jim Morrison, Judy Morrison, Myers, Neufeld, Newton, Nichols, Novascone, O'Brien, O'Neal, Osborne, Ostmeyer, Palmer, Patterson, Pauls, E. Peterson, J. Peterson, Phelps, L. Powell, T. Powell, Powers, Pyle, Reardon, Ruff, Schwartz, Sharp, Showalter, Shultz, Stone, Storm, Tafanelli, Tanner, Thimesch, Toelkes, Toplikar, Vickrey, Wells, Welshimer, Wilk, D. Williams, J. Williams, Wilson and Winn

2-21

A 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 Sen-

1 ate from 1907-1913 and again from 1915-1929; and

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

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

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

10 WHEREAS, Charles Curtis ran for President of the United States in
11 1928, losing his party's nomination to Herbert Hoover at the Republican
12 National Convention held in Kansas City; and

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

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

19 WHEREAS, Charles Curtis died in Washington, D.C. on February 8,
20 1936, and was honored by his state with the only funeral service ever held
21 in the Kansas statehouse. A plaque dedicated to his memory is located
22 on the south steps of the capitol; and

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

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

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

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