

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 246**

Introduced by Brewer, 43; Pansing Brooks, 28.

WHEREAS, Chief Standing Bear of the Ponca Tribe is recognized as a symbol of the First Nations' civil rights across Indian Country and throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, Chief Standing Bear, in the case of Standing Bear vs. Crook, became the first Native American to be recognized as a person within the meaning of the law in a court decision rendered in the Ponca Chief's favor on May 12, 1879; and

WHEREAS, the trial of Chief Standing Bear does not reflect merely a Native American issue nor that of any other specific race or ethnicity, but instead extends itself to broader matters of citizenship and humanity; and

WHEREAS, Omaha tribal member Susan La Flesche Picotte overcame racial and gender inequality to become America's first Indian doctor; and

WHEREAS, Dr. La Flesche worked tirelessly to provide medical care to members of the Omaha tribe as well as members of the community at large; and

WHEREAS, Dr. La Flesche and Chief Standing Bear both personally sacrificed as warriors for their people; and

WHEREAS, May 12, 2017, commemorates the 138th anniversary of the landmark court decision; and

WHEREAS, citizens of the Great State of Nebraska will gather for the Annual Chief Standing Bear Commemoration Celebration to remember and reflect upon the contributions of Chief Standing Bear.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes the great sacrifice and contributions of Chief Standing Bear and Dr. Susan La Flesche Picotte.

2. That the Legislature joins with Governor Ricketts in declaring May 12, 2017, to be Chief Standing Bear Day in Nebraska.

3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Commission on Indian Affairs.