

# THE WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

OKLAHOMA HEADQUARTERS: HOTEL WILL ROGERS, CLAREMORE

MORTON R. HARRISON, CHAIRMAN FOR OKLAHOMA

May 14, 1937

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

GOVERNOR E. W. MARLAND  
Ex-Officio Chairman  
MORTON R. HARRISON  
Active State Chairman  
B. S. (CHEBBIE) GRAHAM  
ELMO THOMPSON  
WALTER HARRISON  
THOS. P. (PUTTY) GILMER  
LEONARD NELSON  
NEWT R. GRAHAM  
GLENN CONDON

Mr. Amon G. Carter  
Fort Worth Star Telegram  
Fort Worth, Texas

Dear Mr. Carter:

I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Burke, while attending the Bankers Convention in Oklahoma City, last week, and I am of the opinion he advised you of our success in Oklahoma, in passing a Bill through the Oklahoma Legislature, Memorializing Congress to accept Will Rogers Statue, as Oklahomas' final choice in the Hall of Fame, and appropriated \$35,000.00, for the work, also the passing of a Bill for \$200,000.00 for the purpose of erecting a Will Rogers Memorial Museum at Claremore, on the twenty acre site, which has been furnished by Mrs. Rogers. The site we told you about while your guest, the one that Mr. Rogers bought for a future home many years ago, all of this money of course is available now.

I just returned from Washington a few days ago, and on April 19th, the attached Bill was presented in both the Senate and Congress, and there is no doubt in my mind but what this Bill will pass.

You will note, however that this Bill appropriates an amount of money to match all we raise by Legislation and public and private donations.

I have made two trips to New York, trying to secure \$23,379.33, which I raised in Oklahoma, and sent in, and in January we were told this money would be refunded, and likewise California's money was to be refunded to her, as the securing of this fund, which is rightfully ours would mean twice this amount when the National Bill passes, but we must have proof to the National Congress that this money is and will be available, and I have tried every way in the world to get something definite since the agreement was made, in the form of an affidavit or check which could be photostated as proof, and on my last appeal I was advised under date of May 11th, as follows:  
"Before I can supply you with any statement as to the availability of these funds it will be necessary to have a meeting of the executive committee or the committee on memorials and obtain their approval to release the funds." Therefore, I am still in the dark

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LEW WENTZ

## MIDNIGHT THEATRE PREVIEW COMMITTEE

MORRIS LOWENSTEIN  
L. C. GRIFFITH  
PAT McGHEE  
FRED PICKEREL  
RALPH TALBOT



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Page 2 Con't Mr. Amon G. Carter, May 14, 1937

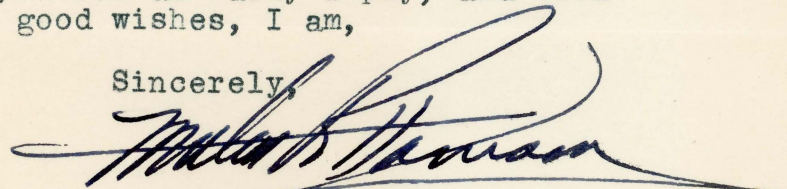
as having anything concrete.

However, on the January 4th, meeting, the Committee on Memorials from Oklahoma namely, Dr. J. C. Bushyhead, Patrick J. Hurley, and Mrs. Roberta Campbell Lawson were present when this appeal was made. Therefore, cannot understand what I will have to do to get this money, and would appreciate your suggestions and advice, and would be happy to make a trip to Fort Worth to go into this matter if desired, and while I am on the subject, I would like to have an affidavit from you to the effect that Oklahoma has as its share \$1,760.61, which is 50% of the Texas-Oklahoma football game, on deposit in Fort Worth, and that such a fund is available for the Will Rogers Memorial Museum.

I realize this is a long letter, but I have spent some seven months of my time, and have traveled something like 16,000 miles at my own expense, trying to pull the loose ends together, and have reached the place now where days mean a lot as Congress is going to adjourn sometime, and I don't want this Bill to be left "high and dry."

Thanking you for an early reply, and with the very kindest of good wishes, I am,

Sincerely,



Morton R. Harrison

MRH/lc  
Encl: 4

RECEIVED  
MAY 15 1937



*This is new law*

*MRII*

# Senate Joint Resolution No. 15

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15—By BUSHY-  
HEAD.

A JOINT RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING THIRTY-  
FIVE THOUSAND (\$35,000.00) DOLLARS FOR  
THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING A STATUE OF  
WILL ROGERS TO BE PLACED IN THE NA-  
TIONAL STATUARY HALL; GRANTING MRS.  
WILL ROGERS AUTHORITY TO CHOOSE A  
SCULPTOR; AND DECLARING AN EMER-  
ENCY.

1 WHEREAS, the President of the United States is  
2 authorized by virtue of the laws of the United States (40  
3 United States Code Annotated 187) to invite all of the  
4 States to provide and furnish statues in marble or bronze,  
5 not to exceed two (2) in number for each State, of de-  
6 ceased persons of said State illustrious for their historic  
7 renown, and,

8 WHEREAS, up to the present time Sequoyah has been



1 the only person of this State offered this national com-  
2 memoration, and,

3 WHEREAS, it is fitting that this honor should at this  
4 time be bestowed upon another great Cherokee,

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE  
6 SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
7 THE SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF  
8 OKLAHOMA:

9 SECTION 1. That there is hereby appropriated out  
10 of any moneys in the State Treasury, not otherwise appro-  
11 priated, the sum of Thirty-five Thousand (\$35,000.00) Dol-  
12 lars for the purpose of employing a sculptor to provide a  
13 statue of the late Will Rogers to be placed in the National  
14 Statuary Hall at Washington, D. C.

15 SECTION 2. Mrs. Will Rogers is by this Act given  
16 authority to choose any person she deems capable of fur-  
17 nishing the proper statue of her late husband to be used  
18 for the purposes herein set forth.

1 SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the  
2 preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an  
3 emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof  
4 this Act shall take effect and be in full force from and  
5 after its passage and approval.

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*This is now law*

*M. A. H.*

# Senate Joint Resolution No. 25

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 25 — By BUSHY-  
HEAD.

A JOINT RESOLUTION AMENDING SECTION 2  
OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15 OF  
THE SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE ENACTED  
TO PROVIDE FOR THE ERECTION OF A  
STATUE OF THE LATE WILL ROGERS IN  
THE NATIONAL STATUARY HALL; AND DE-  
CLARING AN EMERGENCY.

1 WHEREAS, Senate Joint Resolution No. 15 of the  
2 Sixteenth Legislature, relating to the employment of a  
3 sculptor to provide a statue of the late Will Rogers to be  
4 placed in the National Statuary Hall at Washington D. C.  
5 Makes no provision as to the <sup>execution</sup> executive of the necessary  
6 contract by an agent of the State of Oklahoma with the  
7 sculptor selected to execute said statue, or for the manner  
8 in which claims and warrants for the payment thereof shall  
9 be issued.



1 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SEN-  
2 ATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
3 THE SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF  
4 OKLAHOMA:

5 SECTION 1. That Section 2, of the Senate Joint  
6 Resolution No. 15, of the Sixteenth Legislature of the State  
7 of Oklahoma, be hereby amended to read as follows:

8 "Section 2. Mrs. Will Rogers is by this Act given  
9 authority to choose any person she deems capable of  
10 furnishing the proper statue of her late husband to be  
11 used for the purposes herein set forth, and the Gov-  
12 ernor is hereby authorized to enter into a contract,  
13 on behalf of the State of Oklahoma, with the sculptor  
14 selected by Mrs. Rogers, for the execution, casting  
15 and erection of said statue upon such terms of pay-  
16 ment as may be agreed upon by the aforesaid parties  
17 to such contract. The Governor is authorized in his  
18 discretion to contract for the payment of one-third

1 of the amount stipulated in said contract upon execu-  
2 tion of said contract; and for the payment of one-third  
3 of said amount upon the casting of such statue; and  
4 for the payment of one-third of said amount upon the  
5 erection, placing into position and the formal unveil-  
6 ing and dedication of such statue. The payments  
7 authorized herein shall be made from the appropri-  
8 ation therefor upon warrants drawn by the State  
9 Auditor for the Satisfaction of proper claims therefor  
10 approved by the Governor."

11 SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the  
12 preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an  
13 emergency is hereby declared to exist by reason whereof  
14 this Act shall take effect and be in full force from and af-  
15 ter its passage and approval.



*This is now law*

*MASH*

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1937

# Engrossed Senate Bill No. 239

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO 239—By BUSHYHEAD,  
AND RORSCHACH OF THE SENATE, AND KIGHT  
AND GOODPASTER OF THE HOUSE.

AN ACT CREATING THE WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL COMMISSION; PRESCRIBING THE MANNER AND METHOD OF APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS THEREOF, FIXING THEIR TENURE OF OFFICE; PRESCRIBING THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF SAID COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A CUSTODIAN OF THE BUILDING AND GROUNDS OF SAID WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL, FIXING SAID CUSTODIAN'S SALARY AND TENURE OF OFFICE; MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SAID MEMORIAL; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

**1** SECTION 1. The Governor of the State of Oklahoma  
**2** is hereby empowered to appoint fifteen (15) persons, no  
**3** more than two (2) of which reside in any one county in the



1 State of Oklahoma, who shall constitute the WILL ROG-  
2 ERS MEMORIAL COMMISSION. The term of members  
3 of said Commission shall be co-terminous with that of the  
4 Governor and they shall serve without compensation. Each  
5 of the members of said Commission shall be subject to  
6 removal from office the same as other state officials not  
7 subject to impeachment.

8 SECTION 2. The Commission shall have full power  
9 and authority to acquire and hold real estate in its own  
10 name; to act in cooperation with the Federal Government  
11 or any of its agencies, in the constructing, building, pre-  
12 serving and maintaining of said Will Rogers Memorial;  
13 to accept gifts, grants, and donations from the United  
14 States Government, or any person, firm, corporation, or  
15 municipal subdivision of Government of the State of Okla-  
16 homa, or any group of persons, for the uses and purposes  
17 of building, constructing, operating and maintaining said  
18 Memorial, said Memorial to be located at, or near, the town

1 of Claremore, Oklahoma, on the site now provided by the  
2 Will Rogers family for the purpose of locating thereon  
3 such a Memorial.

4 SECTION 3. The Commission shall have the further  
5 power and authority to select some suitable person, or  
6 persons, as Custodian and Assistant Custodians, of the  
7 buildings and grounds of said Memorial; to fix the said  
8 Custodian's salary in an amount not to exceed One Hundred  
9 Twenty-five (\$125.00) Dollars per month, and to fix the  
10 Assistant Custodian's, if any, salary, to be paid out of any  
11 funds hereinafter appropriated.

12 SECTION 4. The Commission shall have the power  
13 and authority to operate and maintain said Memorial and  
14 to make all rules and regulations necessary for the main-  
15 tenance and operation thereof. That said Commission  
16 shall never make any charge of any kind for the admission  
17 of any person to any part of the grounds or buildings of  
18 the said Will Rogers Memorial.



1 SECTION 5. There is hereby appropriated out of any  
2 funds in the State Treasury, not otherwise appropriated,  
3 the sum of Two Hundred Thousand (\$200,000.00) Dollars,  
4 or so much thereof as may be necessary, as may be de-  
5 termined by the Commission for the purpose of con-  
6 structing, building, operating and maintaining said Will  
7 Rogers Memorial.

8 SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the  
9 preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an  
10 emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof  
11 this Act shall take effect and be in full force from and  
12 after its passage and approval.

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75TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6482

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 19, 1937

Mr. DISNEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Library and ordered to be printed

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## A BILL

Providing for cooperation with the State of Oklahoma in constructing a permanent memorial to Will Rogers.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3       That there is hereby established a commission to be known  
4       as the Federal Will Rogers Memorial Commission (herein-  
5       after referred to as the Commission), and to be composed  
6       of three persons to be appointed by the President of the  
7       United States. The members of the Commission shall serve  
8       without compensation, but traveling, subsistence, and other  
9       necessary expenses incurred by them in connection with  
10      the work of the Commission may be paid from any funds  
11      available for expenditure by the Commission. Any vacancy



1 occurring in the membership of the Commission shall be  
2 filled by the President.

3 SEC. 2. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated  
4 the sum of \$500,000, to be expended by the Commission,  
5 in cooperation with the Will Rogers Memorial Commission  
6 established by an Act of the Legislature of the State of  
7 Oklahoma, and such other agencies, public and private, as  
8 the Commission may determine, for the purpose of designing  
9 and constructing on a site to be donated by Mrs. Will Rogers,  
10 in or near Claremore, Oklahoma, a suitable permanent  
11 memorial to the memory of Will Rogers; but no part of  
12 the sum herein authorized to be appropriated shall be made  
13 available for expenditure until adequate provision has been  
14 made for the perpetual care and maintenance, without  
15 expense to the United States, of such site and the memorial  
16 constructed thereon.

17 SEC. 3. No amount shall be expended from the sums  
18 appropriated for the purposes of this Act until an equal  
19 amount has been made available from other sources, public  
20 or private, for expenditure for the same purpose.

21 SEC. 4. All expenditures of the Commission shall be  
22 allowed and paid upon the presentation of itemized vouchers  
23 therefor approved by the chairman of the Commission, but  
24 no expenditure shall be made or authorized by the Com-

1 mission except with the approval of a majority of its  
2 members.

3 SEC. 5. No fee or charge of any character shall be  
4 imposed or made for admission to such memorial or the  
5 grounds on which it is constructed.

6 SEC. 6. Plans and designs for the memorial shall be  
7 chosen only after open competition by architects and before  
8 any of the funds herein authorized to be appropriated shall  
9 be expended, the plans and designs of the memorial shall  
10 be approved by Mrs. Will Rogers.

11 SEC. 7. The Commission shall cease and terminate upon  
12 the <sup>completion</sup> ~~completion~~ and acceptance by the said Joint Commis-  
13 sion of the Will Rogers Memorial as herein provided, and  
14 the submission to the President of a final report including  
15 an audit of the expenditures of the funds expended as  
16 provided herein.

1917  
H. R. 6485

A BILL



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**A BILL**

Providing for cooperation with the State of Oklahoma in constructing a permanent memorial to Will Rogers.

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By Mr. DISNEY

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APRIL 19, 1937

Referred to the Committee on the Library and ordered to be printed