

NICKLES SPONSORS BILL DEFENDING MARRIAGE

From US Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla.

■(WASHINGTON) Oklahoma Senator Don Nickles announced Wednesday he will introduce legislation which defines the words "marriage" and "spouse" for purposes of federal law and allows each state to decide for itself with respect to so-called same-sex "marriages."

Nickles made the announcement at a news conference in Washington at which introduction of the Defense of Marriage Act was announced with House sponsors Rep. Steve Largent (R-OK) and Rep. Bob Garr (R-GA).

"This bill does two simple things," Nickles said. "First, the bill says marriage for federal purposes is the legal union between one man and one woman, and a spouse is a husband or wife of the opposite sex. Second, it allows each state to decide for itself about same-sex marriages without other states' laws interfering."

"Most Americans will have a hard time understanding how our country has come to the point where such simple terms as marriage and spouse need to be defined in federal law. But under challenge from courts, lawsuits and an erosion of values, we find ourselves at the point today that this legislation is needed."

"This bill merely reaffirms what Americans have meant for more than 200 years when using the word marriage and spouse. This common sense legislation is important and timely because of action currently underway at the state level to legalize marriages between persons of the same sex, which could have significant implications for other states and the federal government. This has extraordinary significance because of the definition of the words marriage and spouse determine how hundreds of rules and regulations dealing with income taxes, immigration, and federal employee or health benefits are administered."

"This effort hardly seems to be news as it reaffirms current practice and policy. But surely somehow, somewhere, given today's climate, it will be. I believe the fact that it will be news — that some may even consider this legislation controversial — should make the average American stop and take stock of where we are as a country and where we want to go."

WESTERN AUTHOR GLENN SHIRLEY TO APPEAR AT CHISHOLM TRAIL MUSEUM

From Oklahoma Historical Society

■(KINGFISHER) Glenn Shirley, author of 25 books on the American West, will present "Telling It Like It Was: Events and Characters of Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory" May 25 at the Chisholm Trail Museum in Kingfisher.

Shirley, who also will autograph books, will draw on his 50 years of experience in interviewing and researching material on law officers, outlaws, trappers, soldiers, leaders and settlers of what is now Oklahoma from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

The public is invited without charge, said Curator Renee Mitchell.

"In addition to his books," said Mitchell, "Shirley has produced more than 800 short stories, novelettes and non-fiction articles in regional and national magazines and journals. He also is a former contributing editor of the *Westerner* and *Old Trails* magazines as well as the *Oklahoma Monthly*."

Shirley earned a diploma from the IAS School of Criminology in Chicago and a degree from the University of Chicago School of Law. He also attended the New

York Institute of Photography, the International Criminologist School in Seattle, the Delehanty Institute in New York and the Institute of Technology at Oklahoma A&M College (now Oklahoma State University).

He also has served as assistant chief of police in Stillwater and as a deputy sheriff and in security and publications at OSU.

His first book was *Toughest of Them All* in 1953. Since then he has published books on frontier justice in Indian Territory, the famous *Gunfight at Ingalls* and on well known figures such as Pawnee Bill, Heck Thomas, Henry Starr and Belle Starr among others.

He has been named to the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame and Oklahoma Professional Writers Hall of Fame, and he has received the University of Oklahoma Professional Writing Award.

The Chisholm Trail Museum and Seay Mansion are operated by the Oklahoma Historical Society with support from Chisholm Trail Museum Inc. of Kingfisher. For further information, contact Mitchell at the museum (405) 375-5176.

SQUIRREL SEASON RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

From Okla. Dept. of Wildlife

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) May 15 is a date squirrel hunters know well. That's because it's the first day of Oklahoma's eight-month fox and gray squirrel season.

The season runs May 15 through Jan. 31, annually, and hunters are allowed 10 squirrels daily in aggregate, with 20 allowed in possession after the first day. Hunting hours are one-half hour before official sunrise to official sunset.

Shotguns are recommended during the early part of the season when vegetation is thick, but .22 rifles have taken more than their share of bushytails. When using rifles, remember to pay special attention to what lies beyond your target and, as with any type of hunting, keep safety foremost in your mind.

Most of the more than 70 Department-owned or managed wildlife management areas are open to squirrel hunting. Hunters considering a trip to one of these Department areas should consult the public hunting lands matrix in the 1995-96 Oklahoma Hunting Regulations booklet.

The Wildlife Department sells an 84-page atlas that contains maps of these public hunting and fishing areas. *Oklahoma Wildlife Management Areas* is available for \$5 if picked up at Department installations or \$7 by mail. To order a copy, make your check or money order payable to the ODWC and send it to the Department at 1801 N. Lincoln, Oklahoma City, OK 73105.



"Oh, mail for me! Thank you."

This is my home now that squirrel season is about to start."