

ENROLLED SENATE

RESOLUTION NO. 6 By: Gustafson, Stipe, Bell, Brown, Cain, Capps, Cole, Cullison, Dickerson, Douglass, Easley, Fair, Fisher, Ford, Haney, Harrison, Helton, Hendrick, Henry, Herbert, Hobson, Hooper, Horner, Kerr, Lawler, Leftwich, Littlefield, Long (Ed), Long (Lewis), Mickle, Miles-LaGrange, Muegge, Pierce, Price, Roberts, Robinson, Rozell, Rubottom, Shedrick, Shurden, Smith, Snyder, Taylor, Weedn, Wilkerson, Williams (Don), Williams (Penny) and Wright

A Resolution praising the life and career of Senator Roy Boecher; extending sincere and heartfelt condolences to his family, coworkers and friends; making a permanent record; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Roy C. Boecher was born near Kingfisher in Oklahoma Territory on August 24, 1906. He graduated from Kingfisher High School in 1924 and continued his education at Oklahoma A&M University. During his youth, living on a farm at the mouth of Kingfisher Creek where his family settled in 1900, he became an avid hunter and fisherman. What began out of necessity to put food on the table became his two favorite hobbies. Roy Boecher hunted and fished on three continents; and

WHEREAS, Roy Boecher worked with the Soil Conservation Service during the 1930s. He was also a pioneer in utilities management, serving as the first manager of the Cimarron Rural Electric Cooperative, which was the first operation of its kind in the State of Oklahoma. Roy Boecher held that position for 38 years, from 1936 to 1974. In 1953, he took over management of the Pioneer Telephone Company. After retiring as Executive Manager of the telephone company in 1975, he continued to serve as a special consultant to the board until the time of his death. Pioneer is the nation's largest and the State of Oklahoma's first telephone cooperative with 21,000 members. Roy Boecher also served as a Director of the National Rural Telephone Bank; and

WHEREAS, Roy Boecher was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate in 1948 where he served consecutive terms until his retirement in 1974. During his tenure he served as President Pro Tempore of the Senate during the 29th session (1963) and the Majority Floor Leader during the 31st session (1967-1968). He chaired the Game and Fish Committee, known now as the Senate Wildlife Committee, for 20 of his 26 years in the Oklahoma State Senate. Twice during his tenure, Senator Boecher managed two recodifications of the game laws. When the Oklahoma Wildlife Code was passed, Senator Boecher, the principal author, was in the hospital after hip surgery and unable to go to the capitol. The capitol came to him as Governor David Hall, the news media, state officials and leading legislators moved to McBride Bone and Joint Hospital in Oklahoma City, and as television and newspaper cameras recorded the proceedings, the 100-page bill was signed in Senator Boecher's presence; and

WHEREAS, Senate President Pro Tempore James E. Hamilton appointed Senator Boecher as a member of the Oklahoma Energy Advisory Council, created by the State Legislature in 1973 to combat

the energy crisis. In 1975, Roy Boecher was appointed Special Assistant for State Senate Liaison by Governor David Boren; and

WHEREAS, Roy Boecher was appointed to the Oklahoma Wildlife Commission as District 6 Commissioner by Governor George Nigh on January 10, 1979. He presided as Vice Chairman of the Oklahoma Wildlife Commission in 1981 and Chairman in 1982. He was widely respected for his knowledge of wildlife and was a firm believer that the best way to protect the future of the game population is through accurate knowledge. Senator Boecher was also interested in introducing more bird species for Oklahoma hunters; and

WHEREAS, Roy Boecher died at age 86 on March 15, 1993, following a long illness. Senator Boecher is survived by his wife Evelyn and three daughters, Carol Jameson of Norman, Dorothy Hoskins of Canton, and Bonny Ruhl of Kingfisher. He is also survived by eight grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate praises the life and career of Senator Roy Boecher.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate extends sincere and heartfelt condolences to his family, coworkers and friends on behalf of the Legislature and the citizenry of this state.

THAT a copy of this resolution be spread upon the pages of the permanent record of the Oklahoma State Senate as a permanent record of the praise and condolences expressed herein.

THAT duly authenticated copies of this resolution be distributed to his wife Evelyn and to the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Adopted by the Senate the 29th day of March, 1993.

President of the Senate