

SHORT TITLE: Commendation for Senate Chamber remodeling;
distribution.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 44th Legislature (1994)

SENATE

RESOLUTION NO. 030

By: Hendrick and Cullison

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution commending and thanking those individuals whose hard work, long hours and outstanding labor made the remodeling of the Oklahoma State Senate Chamber a resounding success; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma State Capitol is one of the top attractions in the State of Oklahoma. More than one million people visited the Capitol during the first ten months of 1993, which ranks the Oklahoma State Capitol among the state's most visited sites. The State Capitol was occupied but not completely finished in 1917, as many original plans were not completed due to a lack of funds. However, with the approval of a bond issue by a vote of the people in 1993 and the assistance of the Capitol Preservation Commission, the Oklahoma State Senate Chamber has been restored to its original glory; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma State Senate Chamber has been restored to the appearance it had when the Oklahoma City Capitol building was first occupied in 1917. Windows that were sealed for decades were restored. Ornamental plaster scroll work and decorations were reproduced and placed in the Chamber. The Senators received new desks that were designed to look like the ones used in the early days after Oklahoma City became the site of the State Capitol. Construction has been completed to place stained glass with back lighting in the Chamber's ceiling which replicates the previous

skylight. Pieces of stained glass were found in the attic and a stained glass panel was restored and placed in the ceiling. The press box was moved to the rear of the Chamber; and

WHEREAS, the State Capitol, which was designed by architect Solomon A. Layton, is regarded by architectural experts as one of the country's most beautiful. However, in the 1950s and 1960s ornamental plaster was covered over as were the windows, thus destroying the integrity of the Greek-revival themes of architecture. Then in the 1970s the Chamber was covered by paneling in a remodeling program that impaired some of the Chamber's original design. Also in 1970, windows in the fifth floor gallery above the Chamber were closed and air conditioning vents were installed; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services' construction crew labored throughout the summer and fall with a target restoration date of December 30, 1993. The architect, Paul Meyer, used original architectural plans for the restoration. Meyer is the architect and curator for the State Capitol Preservation Commission. Working with original documents, he strove to replicate as much of the original look as possible; and

WHEREAS, while many people were involved in the Chamber restoration, a few dedicated individuals deserve particular recognition for ensuring that the Oklahoma State Senate Chamber was renovated to its original glory. Those people are former Minority Leader, Senator Charles R. Ford; Assistant Majority Leader, Senator Herbert Rozell; Senate Administrative Director, Bob Craig; Personal Assistant to the President Pro Tempore, Penny Crist; Architect Paul Meyer; Director of the Legislative Service Bureau, Paul McElvany; and Assistant Secretary of the Senate, Larry Cottingham.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 44TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commends and thanks these individuals whose hard work, long hours and outstanding labor made

the remodeling of the Oklahoma State Senate Chamber a resounding success.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to former Minority Leader, Senator Charles R. Ford; Assistant Majority Leader, Senator Herbert Rozell; Senate Administrative Director, Bob Craig; Personal Assistant to the President Pro Tempore, Penny Crist; Architect Paul Meyer; the Department of Human Services construction crew; the State Capitol Preservation Commission; Director of the Legislative Service Bureau, Paul McElvany; and Assistant Secretary of the Senate, Larry Cottingham.

44-2-2239

THC