ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 61 By: Snyder, Bell, Brown, Cain, Campbell, Capps, Cole, Dickerson, Douglass, Easley, Fair, Fisher, Ford, Gustafson, Haney, Harrison, Helton, Hendrick, Henry, Herbert, Hobson, Horner, Kerr, Leftwich, Littlefield, Long (Ed), Long (Lewis), Maddox, Martin, Mickle, Monson, Muegge, Pierce, Price, Roberts, Robinson, Rozell, Rubottom, Shedrick, Shurden, Smith, Stipe, Taylor, Weedn, Wilkerson, Williams (Don), Williams (Penny) and Wright

A Resolution praising Oklahoma's Special Olympics; commending Greg Ashworth; commending the Paynter family; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Oklahoma Special Olympics is a year-round sports training and athletic competition program for 9,000 Oklahoma children and adults with developmental disabilities. Since 1969 the statewide competition for these special athletes is held at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma. The special athletes live in the residence halls, eat in the cafeterias and compete using university facilities. These summer and winter events are what special athletes look forward to each year; and

WHEREAS, Special Olympics Honorary Head Coach Barry Switzer presented Edmond resident Greg Ashworth this year with an "Athlete of the Year" award for his lifetime commitment to Oklahoma's Special Olympics. Greg lit the torch at the opening ceremony and retired the torch for the year at the end of the Special Olympics State Summer Games. He also won a gold and silver medal in the competition. This marks Greg Ashworth's 27th year of participation in the Special Olympics. Last year he won a gold, a silver and two bronze medals at the 1995 Special Olympics World Games held in New Haven, Connecticut. Greg's specialties are the 25-meter freestyle and the 25-meter backstroke. Despite his many medals and wins, Greg will forfeit a race in order to stop to help others; and

WHEREAS, the Paynter family of Edmond, Oklahoma received the Oklahoma Special Olympics "Family of the Year Award" presented by Oklahoma's First Lady, Cathy Keating. The Paynter family members were chosen for their ability to get Edmond residents involved in Special Olympics programs and their assistance in supporting the winter sports program. Dean, Ellen, Chris and Nicholas Paynter work out, play basketball and run together. Son Chris, born with Down's syndrome 20 years ago, is coached by his father Dean Paynter at a training center in Edmond, Oklahoma. Chris trains four times a week in his specialty, power lifting. Last year Chris Paynter won three gold medals in power lifting and represented Oklahoma as part of the state's delegation to the Special Olympics World Games in New Haven, Connecticut.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 45TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate praises Oklahoma's Special Olympics.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commends Greg Ashworth and members of the Paynter family.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Sherri England, Executive Director, Oklahoma Special Olympics; Greg Ashworth; and Dean, Ellen, Chris and Nicholas Paynter.

Adopted by the Senate the 28th day of May, 1996.

President of the Senate