ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 65 By: Taylor, Wright, Bell, Brown, Cain, Campbell, Capps, 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, Snyder, Stipe, Weedn, Wilkerson, Williams (Don) and Williams (Penny)

A Resolution expressing gratitude to Senator Helen Cole for her many years of public service to the State of Oklahoma; congratulating her upon the occasion of her retirement from the Oklahoma State Senate; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Helen TeAta Gale Cole was born July 13, 1922, in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, the daughter of Avis Minnette Fifield (Thompson) and William Oakley Gale. Helen's grandfather was the last treasurer of the Chickasaw Nation. Her aunt, TeAta, was the noted interpreter of American Indian folklore and the first Indian graduate of the Oklahoma College for Women. She married John Dwayne Cole, Sr., and they became parents of two children, John Dwayne, Jr., and Thomas Jeffery; and

WHEREAS, Helen Cole was appointed to the State Personnel Board by Governor Dewey Bartlett. She has served numerous times as a delegate to Republican county, state and national conventions, and she served two terms as Republican State Committeewoman from Cleveland County; and

WHEREAS, Helen Cole was elected to the Oklahoma State House of Representatives and served there from 1979 until 1984 when she was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate. After one term, she briefly retired in 1988, then was later elected Mayor of Moore, Oklahoma. She then won a special election and has served ably in the Oklahoma State Senate ever since. State Senator Helen Cole has honorably represented the citizens of Senate District No. 45 during her tenure; and

WHEREAS, Senator Cole, through her emphasis on her family, her Indian heritage and her religion, has contributed to the continuing education of all those fortunate enough to have worked with her. Senator Cole has and will continue to serve as a model to interested and informed citizens who have the energy and determination to pursue their goals; and

WHEREAS, Helen Cole has been a member of the Moore and Yukon Chambers of Commerce and the American Legion Auxiliary. She was awarded the Moore Chamber Public Service Award in 1981 and won the Common Cause Outstanding Public Service Award in 1988; and

WHEREAS, Senator Cole has championed the cause of better government in this state in her relentless support of ethics legislation and other legislation designed to ensure that state government will be operated in the most efficient and effective manner possible. She has worked tirelessly to protect the youth of this state from the dangers of drinking and driving through sponsoring legislation limiting the distribution of alcoholic beverages. Her fight against teen drinking is her legacy; and

WHEREAS, Senator Cole's qualities of honesty, friendship, integrity, forthrightness, intelligence and perseverance have well served the Senate, her constituents and all citizens of this state.

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

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate expresses gratitude to Senator Helen Cole for her many years of public service to the State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate expresses heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Senator Cole upon the occasion of her retirement from the Oklahoma State Senate.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Senator Helen Cole, her husband John Dwayne Cole, Sr., and her two sons, John D. Cole, Jr., and Tom J. Cole.

Adopted by the Senate the 30th day of May, 1996.

President of the Senate