

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 45th Legislature (1995)

HOUSE

RESOLUTION NO. 1021

By: Johnson

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution congratulating the Honorable Rex Privett for the major contributions he has made to the State of Oklahoma; honoring and applauding the sincere dedication, integrity, and life-long achievements made during his well-respected and distinguished public service career; directing resolution be made part of the permanent record; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Rex Privett was born in Maramec, Oklahoma, on May 28, 1924; and

WHEREAS, Rex Privett attended Maramec Elementary School, Pawnee Junior High School, and high school, playing football and basketball; and

WHEREAS, Rex Privett was known as the "red head" on the 1941 Class B Champion Basketball Team; and

WHEREAS, Rex Privett graduated from Oklahoma State University after serving courageously in the Armed Forces during World War II, fighting nobly for his country in the South Pacific; and

WHEREAS, Rex Privett, at the age of 33, was first elected in November 1957, from Maramec, Pawnee County, to the Oklahoma State Legislature where he served eight consecutive two-year terms as an esteemed member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, during his second and third terms as a member of the Oklahoma Legislature, Rex Privett served as Vice Chairman of the

State Personnel Committee and Chairman of the County, State and Federal Government Committee; and

WHEREAS, Rex Privett, during his fourth and fifth terms as a member of the House of Representatives, was Speaker Pro Tempore and an ex-officio member of all standing committees in the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Rex Privett served as Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives from 1967 through 1972 and was the first Speaker in the history of the state to preside over more than three legislative sessions; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, Rex Privett was instrumental in enacting Oklahoma's first ethics laws, workers' compensation reform laws, open meeting and open records statutes, and spearheaded the controversial reapportionment of legislative and congressional district lines which assured the citizens of Oklahoma equal representation so that "one man - one vote" would be the law in this state; and

WHEREAS, Rex Privett, as Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, also played a vital role in creating judicial and constitutional reforms, state election ballot reduction, consumer credit protection, voluntary school consolidation, and turnpike construction; and

WHEREAS, after his outstanding legislative career, Rex Privett was elected to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission in 1972, receiving more votes than any statewide candidate in Oklahoma's history; and

WHEREAS, Rex Privett became Chairman of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission in 1975, a position that he held until 1978; and

WHEREAS, Rex Privett, during his exceptional career with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, was responsible for strengthening enforcement of pollution laws, improving regulation of Oklahoma's freight service, advocating the use of alternative fuel usage, and

safeguarding the interests of the people of this state, in a period in which energy fuel supplies were dwindling and costs were increasing at a frightening pace; and

WHEREAS, after leaving the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, Rex Privett was appointed in 1980 as Gasohol Development Coordinator by Governor George Nigh and Executive Director of the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System in 1982, holding the latter position until his retirement on January 1, 1995; and

WHEREAS, during the twelve-year period in which he served as Executive Director of the Oklahoma Public Employees Retirement System, Rex Privett was instrumental in increasing the assets of the System from Four Hundred Million Dollars in 1982 to over Two Billion Three Hundred Million Dollars in 1994, thereby safeguarding and enhancing the retirement benefits of thousands of Oklahoma public employees; and

WHEREAS, Rex Privett, throughout his public career, has served the citizens of this state with integrity, common sense, honor, dignity, and humility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 45TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives congratulates the Honorable Rex Privett for the major contributions which he has made to state government and the citizenry of the great State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives honors and applauds the Honorable Rex Privett for his sincere dedication and integrity and for the life-long achievements of his distinguished and well-respected public service career.

THAT a copy of this resolution be spread upon the pages of the permanent Journal of the Oklahoma House of Representatives of the 1st Session of the 45th Oklahoma Legislature, to reflect Rex Privett's extraordinary accomplishments.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Honorable
Rex Privett.

45-1-7169

ASK-SD