

SHORT TITLE: Expressing gratitude to Senator Jerry Pierce for his years of service to this state and the citizens of his Senate district; congratulating Senator Pierce upon the occasion of his retirement from the Oklahoma State Senate; distribution.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 45th Legislature (1996)

SENATE

RESOLUTION NO. 67

By: Taylor and Wright

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution expressing gratitude to Senator Jerry Pierce for his years of service to the citizens of his Senate district; congratulating him upon the occasion of his retirement from the Oklahoma State Senate; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Jerry Thomas Pierce was born in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, on November 22, 1943, the son of Freeda George and Roscoe Jay Pierce. Later, Jerry Pierce would marry Brenda Neumann and the two would become parents of three children: Kylee Jayne, Landra Michelle, and Grant N.; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Pierce has served as a member of the following organizations: the Washington County Bar Association, the Oklahoma Bar Association, Phi Alpha Delta, Fraternal Order of Police, Oklahoma Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, Jaycees, American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. Senator Pierce was selected to receive the American Legion Outstanding Citizen Award; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 13 Jerry Pierce achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. He served as both Junior and Senior Class President before graduating from Bartlesville College High School in 1962. Jerry Pierce graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1966 and from the University of Tulsa with a law degree in 1968. Before beginning his practice as an attorney, Jerry Pierce served with the Tulsa Police Department and with the United States Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Pierce was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 1970 while serving with the U.S. Marines in

Okinawa. The campaign was conducted primarily by his parents and his wife Brenda, who carried a picture of him door to door. On election day, while he was still in Okinawa, having voted for himself by absentee ballot, Jerry Pierce was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives. He had not been in the United States from the filing date to election day. He did not hear the results until two days after the election. After serving one term, he was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate in 1972. He has served twice as Minority Floor Leader. In 1994 Senator Pierce made a bid for Governor of the State of Oklahoma. In his House and Senate service, Senator Pierce has conscientiously and forthrightly represented his constituents; and

WHEREAS, Senator Jerry Pierce authored meaningful automobile tag reform that uses a sticker to identify the year of expiration, eliminating the need to issue new plates every year. Also, the modernization of renewal of license tags by mail was part of his plan to reduce the bureaucracy. Senator Pierce was the Senate author of legislation that encouraged adoption of the 27th Amendment to the United States Constitution. The measure states that in the event Congress votes itself a pay raise, that pay raise cannot go into effect until the members have faced an election. The purpose was to ensure accountability of the Congress; and

WHEREAS, Senator Pierce, having never feared to proclaim his principles in impassioned debate, has often expanded our understanding of issues and enhanced the deliberation in this body.

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

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate expresses its gratitude to Senator Jerry Pierce for his years of service to the citizens of his Senate District.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate congratulates Senator Pierce and wishes him well on the occasion of his retirement from the Oklahoma State Senate.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Senator Jerry Pierce; his wife, Brenda Pierce; and children, Kylee Jayne, Landra Michelle and Grant N. Pierce.

45-2-3006

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