ENGROSSED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 47

By: Hendrick, Brown, Cain, Campbell, Capps, Dickerson, Douglass, Dunlap, Easley, Fair, Fisher, Ford, Gustafson, Haney, Harrison, Helton, Henry, Herbert, Hobson, Horner, Kerr, Laughlin, Leftwich, Littlefield, Long, Maddox, Martin, Mickle, Milacek, Monson, Morgan, Muegge, Price, Rabon, Roberts, Robinson, Rozell, Shurden, Smith, Snyder, Stipe, Taylor, Weedn, Wilcoxson, Wilkerson, Williams, Williamson and Wright of the Senate

and

Vaughn of the House

A Concurrent Resolution honoring Don Porter for promoting amateur softball; praising his successful career; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the 1996 Summer Olympics showcased for the first time, the sport of women's softball. The United States Women's Olympic Softball team not only won the gold for our country but became role models for thousands of girls throughout the world. The U.S. softball squad's popularity was second only to that of the U.S. Women's Gymnastics Team. Their story is told in the book "Etched in Gold: The Story of America's First Ever Olympic Gold Medal Winning Softball Team"; and

WHEREAS, for Don Porter, Executive Director of USA Softball and President of the International Softball Federation, both of which are based in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, it was the completion of

decades of work to make softball an Olympic sport. Softball has also been approved for the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Don Porter, Executive Director of the Amateur Softball Association (ASA), four championships per year have grown to 64, and 6,000 amateur softball teams have grown to more than 260,000. When the Amateur Softball Association was formed in 1933, the sport had no formal set of playing rules and no national governing body to provide guidance and stability. Today, the ASA has become one of the nation's largest and fastest growing amateur sports organizations, sanctioning play in every state through a network of 100 state/metro associations in 15 regions. More than 4.5 million Americans participate in ASA sanctioned events. They are officiated by more than 56,000 umpires, also trained through the ASA; and

WHEREAS, while only five countries had their national softball teams compete in the first ISF Women's World Fast Pitch Championship in 1965, today there are more than one hundred countries with teams. Thanks to the efforts of Don Porter, softball has earned so much prominence that four cities are trying to lure the international headquarters away from Oklahoma City. Porter persuaded the Amateur Softball Association to move to Oklahoma City in the 1960s. Since then, its headquarters has grown to include the National Softball Hall of Fame and Museum plus the Hall of Fame Stadium, which has hosted eight of the past nine NCAA championships. This site is likely to become the national Olympic training center for softball; and

WHEREAS, Don Porter has announced his retirement as Executive Director of the Amateur Softball Association, a position he has held for 35 years. While Don Porter will retire as Executive Director on April 30, 1998, he will remain President of the International Softball Federation. Porter's goals are to establish headquarters

for the International Softball Federation, continue to work with the International Olympic Committee and write a book. His retirement from ASA will bring to an end his dual role of leading both the national and international governing bodies of a single sport. He is the only person in the world to do so. Don Porter will continue as ASA Executive Director Emeritus which gives him ASA National Council voting rights. The National Softball Stadium in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, has been renamed the "Don E. Porter Softball Hall of Fame Stadium" in his honor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature honors Don Porter for promoting amateur softball.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature praises the career of Don Porter which has resulted in the near-universal recognition of amateur softball.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Don Porter, the Amateur Softball Association of America and the International Softball Federation.

Adopted by the Senate the 4th day of February, 1998.

President of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____, 1998.

Speaker of the House of Representatives