ENROLLED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 66

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

and

Culver, Adair, Adkins, Askins, Bastin, Begley, Benson, Beutler, Blackburn, Bonny, Boyd (Betty), Boyd (Laura), Braddock, Bryant, Case, Claunch, Coleman, Collins, Covey, Cox, Dank, Davis, Deutschendorf, Dunegan, Easley, Eddins, Ervin, Erwin, Ferguson, Fields, Frame, Gilbert, Glover, Graves, Gray, Greenwood, Hager, Hamilton, Hastings, Hefner, Hiett, Hilliard, Hutchison, Ingmire, Key, Kinnamon, Kirby, Kouba, Langmacher, Leist, Lindley, Liotta, Maddux, Mass, Matlock, McCarter, Miller, Mitchell, Morgan, Newport, O'Neal, Ostrander, Paulk, Perry, Pettigrew, Phillips, Plunk, Pope (Clay), Pope (Tim), Ramsey, Reese, Rice, Roach, Roberts, Ross, Sadler, Satterfield, Seikel, Settle, Smith (Dale), Smith (Hopper), Staggs, Stanley, Steidley, Stites, Sullivan (John), Sullivan (Leonard), Taylor, Thomas, Thornbrugh, Toure, Turner, Tyler, Vaughn, Voskuhl, Weaver, Webb, Weese, Wells, Wilt and Worthen of the House

A Concurrent Resolution honoring the memory of the late Frank Best Thompson; requesting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers name an island after him; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Frank Best Thompson of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, died on December 1, 1997. Mr. Thompson, a graduate of Classen High School, served in U.S. Army Intelligence and the Army of Occupation in Italy during World War II and received several decorations; and

WHEREAS, Frank Best Thompson, having learned to scuba dive in the late 1950s at the Central YMCA in Oklahoma City, later became a YMCA scuba instructor. He was also instrumental in allowing women access to the YMCA; and

WHEREAS, Frank Best Thompson became a charter member and instructor of the National Association of Scuba Diving Schools (NASDS) in the 1960s. In 1964, he began requiring the teaching of a new diving technique called "buddy breathing" in which a diver who runs low on or runs out of air, shares with the diver's companion. Thompson encouraged other organizations to teach this major life saving technique; and

WHEREAS, throughout his career, Frank Best Thompson emphasized safety in scuba diving, worked with disabled and handicapped divers and developed the first annual 24-hour spear-fishing marathon in the nation at Lake Tenkiller. Thompson was the Captain of YMCA membership drives in the 1960s and 1970s. He helped develop diving programs across the State of Oklahoma at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva, the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma State University in Stillwater and in many other state municipalities; and

WHEREAS, Frank Best Thompson was active in the Boy Scouts of America and founded Explorer Post 604. The Post 604 identification patch became the first nationally recognized one in the country. The Post also designed its own uniform. Through Thompson's work, Post 604 joined the U.S. Olympic Teams in the 1972 and 1976 Olympics. Frank Best Thompson and Explorer Post members even taught babies how to swim and in 1974 became the first civilians to teach Special Forces team members how to scuba dive; and

WHEREAS, Frank Best Thompson received praise, recognition and awards from Jacques Cousteau regarding Thompson's methods of teaching safe scuba diving and proper use of equipment. Even though many of his awards decorate the walls of the largest scuba diving store in the southwest, the true award Thompson received was the tens of thousands of scuba diving students who make their open water dives in the clear waters of Lake Tenkiller. The dives were usually conducted off the second island, identified as No. 744, which can be seen as one crosses the lake dam.

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 Senate honors the memory of Frank Best Thompson, recognized in Oklahoma and nationally as a scuba diving legend.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate requests that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at an appropriate time name island No. 744 on Lake Tenkiller after Frank Best Thompson.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the U.S. Corps of Engineers, and the Oklahoma Council of Underwater Divers.