ENROLLED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 69 By: Snyder of the Senate

and

Paulk, Adair, Adkins, Askins, Bastin, Begley, Benson, Beutler, Blackburn, Bonny, Boyd (Betty), Boyd (Laura), Braddock, Bryant, Case, Claunch, Coleman, Collins, Covey, Cox, Culver, 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, 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 praising the career of Oklahoma Poet Laureate Betty Lou Shipley; expressing condolences upon her death; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Betty Lou Shipley was born July 11, 1931, in Edmond, Oklahoma, to Clay and Odessa Forsythe. After traveling around the state with her parents and working for the phone company in Duncan, Oklahoma, she returned to Edmond to seek a degree in secondary education from the University of Central Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Betty Lou Shipley's interest in poetry led her to work toward a master's degree in creative studies at the University of Oklahoma. She sought an artist-in-residence position and spent three years traveling from school to school throughout the state, working as a Poet-in-the-Schools for the State Arts Council of Oklahoma. Betty finally returned to teaching in public schools and in 1992 retired from Edmond Public Schools. Betty Shipley's

inspiration came not from abstract ideals but from everyday experience in the real world; and

WHEREAS, Betty Lou Shipley, after her retirement from the Edmond school district, became an Associate Professor of English at the University of Oklahoma, poetry editor of "Byline", a literary magazine, a published poet and owner of a small press, promoting new talent, Broncho Press in Edmond, Oklahoma. In 1997, Governor Frank Keating appointed her Oklahoma's Poet Laureate; and

WHEREAS, Betty Lou Shipley's Broncho Press won the Oklahoma Book Award in 1992 for "Once the Dust" by then Poet Laureate of the State of Oklahoma, Carol Hamilton. Betty Lou Shipley won the 1998 Oklahoma Book Award on March 14, 1998, for her own book of poetry, "Someone Say Amen". Her editor accepted the award for her as she was dying at the very moment the award was announced; and

WHEREAS, to quote from her "Poem for Channing" commissioned by Linda Gray for the Channing Unitarian Universalist Church of Edmond, Oklahoma:

Rain is holy.
Things get done.
There is tomorrow, a promise of sun
and the slow cool of autumn
in Oklahoma where skies are blue as old farmers' eyes,
blue from seeing too far and too well.

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 praises the career of Oklahoma Poet Laureate Betty Lou Shipley.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature expresses its condolences upon her death.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to her children, Bill Shipley, James Shipley and Kathryn Berry; her brothers, James Forsythe and Dale W. Forsythe; Broncho Press; the Oklahoma Center for the Book; Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc.; "Byline" Magazine; Oklahoma City Writers Association; the Oklahoma Arts Council; and Governor Frank Keating.