

ENROLLED SENATE

RESOLUTION NO. 36 By: Roberts, Stipe, Wilkerson, Mickle, Weedn, Rabon, Shurden, 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, Milacek, Monson, Morgan, Muegge, Price, Robinson, Rozell, Smith, Snyder, Taylor, Wilcoxson, Williams, Williamson and Wright

A Resolution celebrating the life and accomplishments of Mae Boren Axton; mourning her death; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Mae Boren Axton was born 82 years ago in Bardwell, Texas, the only daughter of M.L. and Nannie Boren. She had eight brothers including Congressman Lyle H. Boren and Southwestern Oklahoma State University President Dr. James B. Boren; and

WHEREAS, Mae Boren Axton received her bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Oklahoma. Mae Axton had several published articles. She taught high school English in the Wewoka, Ada, Broken Bow and Velma-Alma school districts in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Mae Boren Axton assisted a number of now well-known aspiring country and western performers including Reba McEntire, Kris Kristofferson, Willie Nelson, and Dolly Parton. Mae Axton was also publicist for Crystal Gayle, Jerry Reed, Kenny Rogers and Hank Snow; and

WHEREAS, Mae Boren Axton is best known for co-writing "Heartbreak Hotel" with Tommy Durden and Elvis Presley. "Heartbreak Hotel" was Elvis Presley's first exclusive RCA release. It reached the top of the country and pop charts as well as the top five in the rhythm and blues chart. It hit the top of the pop charts in May 1956 and stayed in first place for eight weeks. "Heartbreak Hotel" was the number ten song of the 1955-1959 rock era. As of the last quarter of 1995, the song had been performed more than two million times. Chet Atkins played rhythm guitar on the recording which won a 1995 award in the Grammy Hall of Fame, which was established to honor early recordings of lasting significance. Mae Boren Axton was present on August 5, 1996, in Nashville, Tennessee, when 1,019 guitar players simultaneously played "Heartbreak Hotel" for 70 minutes and 30 seconds; and

WHEREAS, Mae Boren Axton was an award-winning songwriter, recognized as one of the 50 greatest women songwriters by the National Songwriters Hall of Fame. Mae Axton was inducted into the Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame in 1985. Mae Axton wrote more than 200 songs recorded by such artists as Dorothy Collins, Red Foley, Roger Miller, Hank Snow, and Conway Twitty. She was a charter member and one of the organizers of both the Academy of Country Music and the Country Music Association; and

WHEREAS, Mae Boren Axton was the mother of Hoyt Axton and was a partner with him in founding the Jeremiah record label. Hoyt Axton has written and sung folk-country tunes for more than two decades. He has also appeared in a number of movies; and

WHEREAS, Mae Boren Axton, known as the guardian angel to struggling songwriters, died at 82 years of age on Wednesday, April

9, 1997, in Hendersonville, Tennessee. She was survived by her son, Hoyt Axton, seven grandchildren, one great-grandchild and 26 nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, John Axton, a high school math teacher and football coach, who was inducted into the Oklahoma Coaches Hall of Fame; and her son, John, an Ada, Oklahoma, attorney and civic leader.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate celebrates the life and accomplishments of Mae Boren Axton.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate mourns the death of Mae Boren Axton.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to her son, Hoyt Axton.