ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 87

By: Taylor, Brown, Cain, Campbell, Capps, Dickerson, Douglass, Dunlap, Easley, Fair, Fisher, Ford, Haney, Harrison, Helton, Hendrick, 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, Weedn, Wilcoxson, Wilkerson, Williams, Williamson and Wright

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

WHEREAS, Bill Gustafson was born September 16, 1930, in El Reno, Oklahoma, the son of railroader Oliver Gustafson and Madelyn Morrison Gustafson. At the age of nine years, he started selling vegetables raised in the family garden and has been a salesman ever since. After graduation from El Reno High School, he entered the University of Oklahoma but his studies were brought to a close by the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the the 45th Division of the Oklahoma National Guard, Bill Gustafson was called to active duty on September 1, 1950. His unit went into combat in Korea on Christmas Eve, 1951. On March 15, 1952, Master Sergeant Gustafson was leading his 50-man patrol on a mission when the unit walked into a mine field. Gustafson set off a mine that blew away his left leg below the knee and caused a compound fracture in his right leg. When he left the Army on April 1, 1953, he did so with a Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Korean Service Medal with Bronze Campaign Star, Army Occupation Medal and the United Nations Service Medal; and

WHEREAS, after returning to civilian life, Bill Gustafson joined the Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company and retired after 27 successful years. Bill Gustafson then founded Petra Resources, an oil exploration company. After selling Petra Resources to Zim Energy, Bill Gustafson founded Whitetail Service, an oilfield construction company which he eventually sold to Beard Oil Company. In the 1980s, Bill Gustafson purchased White Tree Farms nursery near Pauls Valley. The nursery was called Whitetail Tree Farm; and

WHEREAS, Bill Gustafson and his wife raised and raced quarter horses in the 1960s. He established a quarter horse farm in rural Canadian County during the 1980s. Bill and his wife sold the farm when they moved to El Reno in 1990; and

WHEREAS, Bill Gustafson has been active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Lions International, and the Oklahoma Nurserymen's Association. He is founder and past President of Preservation El Reno, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Bill Gustafson was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate from District 22 in 1990. Senator Gustafson served on the Agriculture Committee, Appropriations Committee, Business and Labor Committee, Education Committee, General Government Committee, Human Resources Committee, Rules Committee, Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee, Standards and Ethics Committee, Tourism and Recreation Committee, Transportation Committee and Wildlife Committee. He also served as Vice Chair of Veterans and Military Affairs Committee, as Caucus Chair and as Minority Floor Leader; and

WHEREAS, Senator Gustafson, in addition to his interest in horse racing, is an active hunter, fisherman and golfer. He is considered a wildlife conservationist and has an abiding interest in historical preservation.

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

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate expresses its gratitude to Senator Bill Gustafson for his two terms of service to the State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate extends its congratulations and best wishes to Senator Bill Gustafson upon the occasion of his retirement from the Oklahoma State Senate.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Senator Bill Gustafson and his wife, Kay Bainbridge Gustafson; and to his four children, Patricia, Cindy, Brook and Bill.