

SHORT TITLE: Honoring the three Oklahomans selected as National
Entrepreneurs of the Year; honoring the efforts of their companies.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 48

By: Taylor of the Senate

and

Benson of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution congratulating the three Oklahomans selected as National Entrepreneurs of the Year; honoring the efforts of their companies; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, each year a select group of companies and business organizations selects ten winners of one of the most coveted honors in business--the National Entrepreneur of the Year Award. These awards recognize individuals and companies they lead. Each year's award winners are chosen for their outstanding leadership, for making their businesses grow and prosper and for being good corporate citizens in the communities they serve. Of the ten winners for 1997, Oklahoma had three candidates and all three won. The Oklahoma companies competed first at one of 46 regional competitions before joining 440 regional winners competing at the national level; and

WHEREAS, William R. Bartmann, a founder of Tulsa-based Commercial Financial Services, Inc. (CFS), started that company in 1986. Last year, the Tulsa company had 3,100 employees and expected more than \$200 million in revenue. CFS showed a 7,858% increase in sales from 1992 to 1996. William Bartmann credits the company's success with its attitude of treating creditors the way the founder wanted to be treated, with respect and concern and a belief that those in debt want to do the right thing. William Bartmann and CFS

were honored in the service category. CFS is one of the state's fastest growing concerns and plans to add 9,000 new jobs to the state in the future; and

WHEREAS, David Green, the founder of Hobby Lobby Stores Inc. in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, started with a \$600 loan in 1972, operating a part-time frame shop in the family garage. The company is now the nation's second largest chain of hobby outlet stores. The chain has 148 stores in 16 states. It targets locations within an 800-mile radius of Oklahoma City, the site of the company's distribution center and corporate headquarters. In the past three years, Hobby Lobby's revenue has grown 50% and it employs more than 8,000 people. In 1996, its sales topped \$150 million. Green was selected as Entrepreneur of the Year in the retail and consumer products category; and

WHEREAS, Paula Marshall-Chapman is credited with revitalizing the Tulsa-based Bama Pies, a company her grandfather founded in 1937. She is the first person to receive the National Entrepreneur of the Year Award for Principle-Centered Leadership. The award recognizes not only business success but also the achievement of success in a principled manner. In 1985, Paula Marshall-Chapman became Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company. When she took over as CEO, Paula Marshall-Chapman directed the company into Total Quality Management (TQM), a process that turned the company around financially and philosophically. Today, the company focuses on promoting ideas such as making "Bama--a part of every eating experience worldwide", rather than on financial goals. Sales have more than tripled since Paula Marshall-Chapman became CEO, reaching \$157 million in 1996.

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 congratulates William Bartmann, David Green and Paula Marshall-Chapman for being selected as National Entrepreneurs of the Year 1997 by Ernst and Young.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature honors the efforts of Commercial Financial Services, Hobby Lobby Stores and Bama Companies in bringing prosperity to the state and serving as a national example of what Oklahoma companies can accomplish.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to William Bartmann, founder of Commercial Financial Services, Inc.; David Green, founder of Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.; and Paula Marshall-

Chapman, CEO of the Bama Companies, Inc.

46-2-2656

THC

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