

SHORT TITLE: Praising the career of H. B. Atkinson; mourning his loss.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

SENATE

RESOLUTION NO. 49

By: Herbert

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution praising the career of H. B. Atkinson; mourning his loss; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, H. B. Atkinson was born in Carthage, Texas, on May 4, 1908, the second of four children of Paul and Maggie Atkinson of Carthage, Texas. After the death of his mother when he was seven years of age, he was more or less on his own. Leaving school as a preteen, he moved to Shreveport, Louisiana, to support himself by washing dishes in cafes and delivering telegrams. In 1926, H. B. Atkinson began selling Chevrolets and by 1933 became President of the Chevrolet Salesmen's Organization in the New Orleans Zone, selling more automobiles than any other individual in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, H. B. Atkinson joined his brother W. P. "Bill" Atkinson in 1942 to develop Midwest City, Oklahoma. The two began on 160 acres, which is now a city with a population of 62,000. H. B. was in charge of building the first house in Midwest City at 205 East Turnbull. He built more than 600 homes in Midwest City from 1942 until 1953. He was one of the builders and developers of the Lockheed Shopping Center and was the builder and owner of the West Atkinson Plaza and West Atkinson Center shopping areas. He built and operated Midwest Motors, Inc., Midwest City's first auto garage, which was later known as the H. B. Atkinson Chevrolet Company, the first auto dealership in Midwest City. This was sold to Hudiburg Chevrolet in 1957. H. B. operated the first service offices in

Midwest City for gas, water and lights as well as the first auto tag office; and

WHEREAS, H. B. Atkinson was active in civic affairs. He had a leading role in the organization of the Midwest City Lions Club, the town's first civic organization, and was its charter President. Several years later he served a second term as President of the organization. H. B. was awarded Lifetime Membership in the Lions Club on April 17, 1980, and held the Lions Key, Lions Master Key and Lions Senior Master Key. He originated the annual Lions Club 89'er Celebration. He was also a member of the Sirloin Club, organized to provide livestock for 4H and FFA students. H. B. was nominated as the Tinker Area entrant for the Sertoma Club "Service to Mankind Award"; and

WHEREAS, H. B. Atkinson was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate from District 42 and served from 1965 through 1970. While in the State Senate, H. B. served as Chair of the Senate Game and Fish Committee and Vice Chair of Roads and Highways Committee. H. B. also served as a member of the Appropriations and Budget Committee and Committees on Aviation, Common Education, Public Safety and Revenue and Taxation. After leaving the Senate, he served as a consultant to the Governor of Oklahoma on the subject of wildlife conservation. While in the State Senate, Senator Atkinson was a leader in the establishment of Rose State College; and

WHEREAS, H. B. Atkinson served on the Wildlife Commission from District 5 from 1974 through 1977 and again from 1983 through 1993. H. B. was named Midwest City's "Sportsman of the Year" in 1957. The Oklahoma Wildlife Federation presented him with the "Bald Eagle Award", which is given to the Oklahoma Conservationist of the Year and awarded H. B. a lifetime membership. H. B. was also a sponsor and member of Ducks Unlimited; and

WHEREAS, H. B. Atkinson served on the Oklahoma Transportation Commission from District 5 from 1979 through 1982; and

WHEREAS, H. B. was an owner of Tennessee Walker thoroughbred horses since 1963, was a member of the Oklahoma Thoroughbred Association and Arkansas Thoroughbred Breeders and Horsemen's Association; and

WHEREAS, H. B. was a member of the Board of Directors for the First National Bank of Midwest City from 1954 until his death. He served on the Board of Directors of Atkinson Enterprises and President of Mid-America, Inc. He was a member of the Midwest City Chamber of Commerce and was awarded "The Midwest City's Outstanding Citizen Award" in 1970 from that organization; and

WHEREAS, H. B. was a member of the Wickline Methodist Church and served on its Board for 12 years; and

WHEREAS, H. B. Atkinson, a co-founder of Midwest City and Rose State College, died after a long illness on January 27, 1998.

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

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate praises the career of H. B. Atkinson.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate mourns the loss of H. B. Atkinson.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to his wife, Myrtis Garrett Atkinson; his daughter, Gwen Atkinson Vaughan; granddaughter, Michelle Howard; grandson, Joe Bradford Cooley; brother, W. P. "Bill" Atkinson; and his secretary for the last 53 years, Dona Marie Roberts.

46-2-2604

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