

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

SENATE
RESOLUTION 14

By: Taylor, Stipe and Long

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution congratulating Chuck Ervin for his many accomplishments; honoring him for 30 years of service at the state capitol; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Chuck Ervin, a native of McAlester, Oklahoma, and graduate of McAlester High School and the University of Oklahoma, began his career as a reporter for the "McAlester Democrat"; and

WHEREAS, Chuck Ervin, a reporter for the "Tulsa World" won the Sigma Delta Chi Professional Journalism Award for general reporting in 1974 for his on-the-scene coverage of the 1973 riot at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester, Oklahoma. Chuck Ervin was named Journalist of the Year by the Oklahoma Trial Lawyers Association in 1977; and

WHEREAS, Oklahoma must have dedicated and sometimes demented souls willing to sacrifice their lives, limbs and livelihoods to document the annual sessions of the Oklahoma Legislature as members of the State Capitol press corps; and

WHEREAS, for reasons he probably cannot now comprehend and would prefer to forget, Chuck Ervin volunteered for this noble duty, committing himself to a life sentence in the asylum formally known as the Oklahoma State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, under the guidance of fellow McAlester native Gene Stipe, Chuck Ervin quickly learned that the Oklahoma State Senate was a wonderful, even magical institution, capable of doing just about anything, including but not limited to improving the lives of

all Oklahomans, as long as the State House and the executive branch stayed out of the way; and

WHEREAS, despite its apparent infallibility, Chuck Ervin soon discovered the State Senate did stub its toe from time to time and he dutifully chronicled these events, much to the displeasure of his story subjects, who soon made the refrain "What does that darn Chuck Ervin want?" one of the most often-heard phrases in the Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Chuck Ervin seemed to reserve his most relentless scrutiny for the executive branch, asking the most painful of questions at otherwise festive gubernatorial news conferences, a habit that earned him a special honorable mention from one chief executive in a lengthy state of the state address detailing the many attributes of the State Capitol press corps; and

WHEREAS, Chuck Ervin, Tulsa World's Chief of the Capitol Bureau, was named Oklahoma's outstanding political writer in 1979 by the Oklahoma City Gridiron Foundation. The award is made on the basis of overall excellence in political writing and is named for the late Otis Sullivant, a well-known political writer who headed the Capitol Bureau of the "Daily Oklahoman" for many years; and

WHEREAS, after 30 years of dedicated service at the State Capitol, Chuck Ervin has somehow retained both his sense of humor and his sanity and although it would probably be his worst nightmare, we hope that he will stay with us for another 30 years, continuing to treat us to his insight, wit and critical eye; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of Fame and a member of the State Capitol Press Corps, Chuck Ervin has earned the respect of his peers, the people he covers and the readers of his award-winning writing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 47TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate congratulates Chuck Ervin for his many awards and accomplishments.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate honors Chuck Ervin for his 30 years of service at the state capitol.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Chuck Ervin.

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