

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 47th Legislature (1999)

SENATE
RESOLUTION 4

By: Kerr

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution praising the life and public career of the late State Senator Edwin L. Berrong; extending sympathy and condolences to his family and many friends; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Edwin L. Berrong was born April 17, 1915, southeast of Hinton, Oklahoma. The son of Jesse H. Berrong and Alma Jane Dodd, he graduated from Hinton High School where he served as President of the Junior Class and attended Southwestern Oklahoma State College where he majored in Government. He also attended the University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma City University Law School and was admitted to the Oklahoma Bar in 1943; and

WHEREAS, Ed Berrong married Winnie Ola Post on May 28, 1938, in Norman, Oklahoma. A member of the Naval Reserve, he served during World War II. In 1948 he founded the Berrong Insurance Agency in Weatherford, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Ed Berrong began his public service career in 1949 when he was elected Mayor of Weatherford, Oklahoma, a position he held for four terms. In 1958, State Senator K. C. Perryman resigned, resulting in a special election in Senate District #27. Ed Berrong, after serving ten years as Mayor of Weatherford, ran and won; and

WHEREAS, Senator Ed Berrong served for 22 years in the Oklahoma State Senate. During this period he served as Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee under two separate President Pro Tempores: Clem McSpadden and James E. "Jim" Hamilton. Senator Berrong also

served as Chair of the Municipal Government Committee, County Government Committee, Finance and Commerce Committee, the Insurance Committee and Constitutional Revision and Regulatory Services Committee; and

WHEREAS, Senator Ed Berrong was one of a group of fiscal conservatives from Western Oklahoma who shared a governmental philosophy that he summarized upon the occasion of his retirement: "I am leaving government with the same idea I had when I started in it. That is simply this: To see that the folks get from government only the services they want, and to see that they pay no more for those services than is necessary"; and

WHEREAS, upon the occasion of Senator Berrong's retirement from the Oklahoma State Senate, 500 constituents and colleagues packed the Tornado Dome to honor and praise him. U.S. Senator David Boren and former Governor Raymond Gary both commended Senator Ed Berrong for saying "no" to programs the state could not afford and insisting that the public got its money's worth from all state expenditures; and

WHEREAS, Senator Ed Berrong was best known for guiding the new I-40 route through western Oklahoma close to principal towns such as Weatherford, Clinton and Elk City on old U.S. 66. He was also credited with the location of the 3M plant in Weatherford, the State Highway Department and Oklahoma Highway Patrol buildings in Clinton and the development of Foss Reservoir; and

WHEREAS, Ed Berrong served as a National Director and President of the Best Western motel chain. He also served as President of the Weatherford Industrial Development Corporation. Ed Berrong also served as a Director of the First National Bank of Weatherford, Investors Life Insurance Company and Community National Life Insurance Company.

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

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate praises the life and career of public service of the late State Senator Edwin L. Berrong.

THAT on behalf of the citizens of this state, the Oklahoma State Senate extends sympathy and condolences to Senator Ed Berrong's family and many friends.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Senator Ed Berrong's wife, Winnie Ola; his sons, Ed Junior, Mark and Brad; his brother, Fred; and sister Eunice Riffel.

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