

ENROLLED SENATE  
RESOLUTION NO. 37

By: Monson

A Resolution mourning the loss of Cornelius Earl Pittman, a famous educator and musician; extending sincere condolences to his family; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Cornelius Earl Pittman was born October 5, 1914, in St. Louis, Missouri, the eldest of five children of Elizabeth (Johnson) and David Pittman; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the efforts of his uncle, Reverend J. W. Johnson, Cornelius Earl Pittman moved to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in 1934 to attend Frederick Douglas Senior High School. He excelled in baseball, track and field, and boxing, graduating in 1937; and

WHEREAS, Cornelius Earl Pittman joined the United States Navy in 1942 and served in the U.S. Naval Band during World War II. He also played minor league-level baseball while in the Navy. He joined and remained a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post Number 10876; and

WHEREAS, after the war, Cornelius Earl Pittman studied music theory at the Ludwig Music Conservatory of Washington University and St. Louis University. He received a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Denver University in 1953, and earned a Master's Degree in Music Education, Guidance and Counseling from what is now the University of Central Oklahoma in 1958; and

WHEREAS, Mr. F. D. Moon recruited Cornelius Earl Pittman to teach at Douglass High School. Mr. Pittman worked in the Oklahoma City Public Schools System from 1953 to 1979, and again from 1980 to 1994 as a substitute teacher. During his 31-year tenure with the public schools, Mr. Pittman promoted the Annual String Festival for children statewide. He was inducted into the Oklahoma String Teachers Hall of Fame for his dedication and commitment as a traveling string teacher and for his work in organizing string festivals; and

WHEREAS, in 1954, Cornelius Earl Pittman produced the Y-Circus Variety Show with special guest Duke Ellington and his orchestra. Duke Ellington wrote the famous jazz selection "A-Train" in Mr. Pittman's honor; and

WHEREAS, Cornelius Earl Pittman organized and became the first President of the Oklahoma Chapter of the International Association of Jazz Educators. He was instrumental in inducting Mrs. Zelia Page Breaux into the Oklahoma Band Directors Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Cornelius Earl Pittman was a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, a national music fraternity, and was listed in the International Who's Who in Music and Musicians' Directory; and

WHEREAS, Cornelius Earl Pittman founded the Earl Pittman and the All Stars Band, playing for events across the state such as the Multi-Cultural Festival of the Arts and the Charlie Christian Jazz Festival. In 2000, Cornelius Earl Pittman received the "Keeper of the Dream" Award for his outstanding contributions to his community and state; and

WHEREAS, Cornelius Earl Pittman was one of America's classical conductors invited to the World Convention of Black Musicians in Nigeria. The recipient of numerous awards and commendations from a wide array of civic organizations, attesting to his musical genius and his love of teaching music, Cornelius Earl Pittman played his final chord at 3:58 p.m. on Thursday, February 28, 2002.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate joins Oklahoma City and the rest of the State of Oklahoma in mourning the loss of Cornelius Earl Pittman, a famous educator and musician.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate extends sincere condolences to the family, friends, fellow educators and former students of the late Cornelius Earl Pittman.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to his wife, Juanita B. Pittman; son, Cornelius Anthony Pittman I; daughter, Cornita Pittman; son, Andrew Pittman; grandson, Cornelius Anthony Pittman II; granddaughter, Anastasia Pittman; and great granddaughter, Ayshia Pittman.

Adopted by the Senate the 7th day of March, 2002.

---

Presiding Officer of the Senate