STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 48th Legislature (2001)

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 41

By: Taylor of the Senate

and

Adair of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution honoring Governor Henry L. Bellmon upon the occasion of his 80th birthday; welcoming Governor Bellmon back to the State Capitol; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Henry Louis Bellmon was born September 3, 1921, on a farm near Tonkawa in Kay County, Oklahoma. Henry Bellmon was educated in Noble County public schools and graduated from Billings High School in 1938. He attended Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, now Oklahoma State University, graduating in 1942 with a degree in agriculture; and

WHEREAS, Henry L. Bellmon joined the United States Marine Corps during World War II. He served with a tank company for over three years, participating in four Pacific battles, including Iwo Jima. He was presented with the Legion of Merit and Silver Star for his military service. A complete list of his military honors and appointments would be too lengthy to include; and

WHEREAS, Henry L. Bellmon, at the age of 25, was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 1946 and was subsequently reelected in 1948. In 1950 he returned to his farm near Billings to raise wheat and cattle as well as to hunt and fish; and

WHEREAS, Henry L. Bellmon served as Republican State Chairman in 1960 and in 1962 was elected Oklahoma's first Republican Governor. While in office he chaired the Interstate Oil Compact Commission and

was a member of the Executive Committee of the National Governors Conference. Henry Bellmon's first administration was marked by government reform and the improvement of services to Oklahoma's citizens; and

WHEREAS, Henry L. Bellmon was elected to the United States Senate in 1968 and reelected in 1974. During that time he served on the U.S. Senate Finance Committee and built a reputation for advocating fiscal responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Henry L. Bellmon did not seek reelection in 1980, and returned to his farm again, but soon became cofounder and cochair of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. He also lectured as a professor at Oklahoma City University, Central State University, the University of Oklahoma, and Oklahoma State University, as well as serving as a commentator for a local television station; and

WHEREAS, in 1983 Henry L. Bellmon was appointed Director of the Department of Human Services, Oklahoma’s largest agency. In 1985 he was appointed receiver of the financially troubled Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City. He also joined the RAM Group, working to assist financially troubled farmers to avoid foreclosures. Henry L. Bellmon was elected Governor of Oklahoma in 1986, becoming only the second governor to serve more than one term; and

WHEREAS, Henry L. Bellmon, a farmer and rancher, has lived a life of public service while in the military, state government, and the federal government; he has always had the welfare of the people of Oklahoma foremost in his many endeavors. His life is chronicled in the book, The Life and Times of Henry Bellmon.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 48TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature honors Governor Henry L. Bellmon on his 80th birthday, which will be celebrated September 21, 2001.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature welcomes Governor Henry L. Bellmon back to the Oklahoma State Capitol, a building where he has tirelessly toiled on behalf of the people of Oklahoma.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Governor Henry L. Bellmon.

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