

ENGROSSED HOUSE  
CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION NO. 1065

By: Pettigrew, Eddins, Roberts, Adair, Adkins, Armes, Askins, Balkman, Benge, Blackburn, Blackwell, Bonny, Boren, Braddock, Brannon, Calvey, Carey, Cargill, Case, Claunch, Coleman, Covey, Cox, Dank, Davis, Deutschendorf, DeWitt, Dorman, Easley, Ellis, Ericson, Erwin, Ferguson, Gilbert, Graves, Greenwood, Hamilton, Harrison, Hastings, Hefner, Hiett, Hilliard, Hutchison, Ingmire, Jones, Kirby, Lamons, Langmacher, Leist, Lindley, Liotta, Maddux, Mass, McCarter, McClain, McIntyre, Miller (Doug), Miller (Ray), Mitchell, Morgan (Danny), Morgan (Fred), Nance, Nations, Newport, O'Neal, Paulk, Perry, Peters, Peterson (Pam), Peterson (Ron), Phillips, Piatt, Plunk, Pope, Reynolds, Rice, Roan, Roggow, Smaligo, Smith, Smithson, Staggs, Stanley, Steele, Sullivan, Sweeden, Taylor, Tibbs, Toure, Trebilcock, Turner, Tyler, Vaughn, Walker, Wells, Wilson, Wilt, Winchester, Worthen, Wright and Young of the House

and

Littlefield and Snyder of the Senate

A Concurrent Resolution praising the life and career of Fern Leona Holland; extending condolences and sympathy to her family on her death; making a permanent record in the Journals of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and Oklahoma Senate; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, on March 9, 2004, near the small town of Hillah, south of Baghdad, Fern Leona Holland, a great humanitarian and a woman of courage and honor, lost her life while working to establish human rights and democracy in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, prior to her untimely death, Fern Leona Holland, the 33-year-old native Oklahoman from Miami, said: "I love the work and if I die, know that I'm doing precisely what I want to be doing -

working to organize and educate human rights activists and women's groups (in Iraq)"; and

WHEREAS, Fern Leona Holland, who was awarded the Defense of Freedom Medal in recognition of the ultimate sacrifice made, assisted in writing the women's rights provisions for Iraq's interim constitution; and

WHEREAS, Fern Leona Holland was the first civilian American woman working with the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq to be brutally killed under fire; and

WHEREAS, it was stated by family members of Fern Leona Holland: "She was a lover of democracy. She was a humanitarian. She believed our greatest chance for democracy (in Iraq) was through people who were most oppressed"; and

WHEREAS, Fern Leona Holland will be remembered by her family, friends and colleagues as a gifted, spirited and courageous woman whose many accomplishments included: Salutatorian at Miami High School; 1992 graduate of the University of Oklahoma in psychology; member of the Delta Gamma sorority at the University of Oklahoma; 1996 graduate of the University of Tulsa College of Law, ultimately working with two prestigious law firms in Tulsa, Oklahoma and Washington, D.C.; member of the Cherokee Nation and honored in a recent resolution which stated she "died as a warrior"; Peace Corps volunteer in Namibia, West Africa; American Refugee Committee worker in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone, investigating sexual exploitation of women and children; and U.S. Agency for International Development official working alongside the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq; and

WHEREAS, Fern Leona Holland was quietly laid to rest at the Bluejacket Cemetery near the graves of her parents with family members, friends and colleagues by her graveside remembering the poignant words spoken about her by the Reverend Marlin Lavanhar at the All Souls Unitarian Church, who said: "This was an American

girl from Oklahoma who transcended nationality, race, creed and class to forge a bond of faith, and a bond of possibilities with those men, women and children whose lives appear to be so different from our own"; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to remember the name of Fern Leona Holland, a courageous and outstanding woman, and an Oklahoman, who gave her life for the commitment she had to human rights and democracy, two precious gifts held so dear by all Americans and Oklahomans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature on behalf of the people of the State of Oklahoma praises the life and career of Fern Leona Holland.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature extends heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the entire family of the brave and heroic Fern Leona Holland.

THAT a copy of this resolution be spread upon the pages of the Journals of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and the Oklahoma Senate as a permanent record of praises and condolences expressed herein.

THAT copies of this resolution be distributed to her sisters, Viola Holland and Mary Ann Dunn, Oklahoma City; to her brothers, James Holland, Overland Park, Kansas, and Joe Holland, Cleveland, Oklahoma; to nieces Courtney and Emilee Holland; and to nephews Zachary and Stephen Holland and Logan Dunn; to each member of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation; and to Martha Burk, Chair of the National Council of Women's Organizations.

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 6th day of April,  
2004.

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Presiding Officer of the House of  
Representatives

Adopted by the Senate the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2004.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate