ENROLLED SENATE
CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 58

By: Wilcoxson, Aldridge, Branan, Brogdon, Cain, Capps, Coates, Coffee, Corn, Crutchfield, Dunlap, Easley (Mary), Fair, Fisher, Ford, Gumm, Harrison, Helton, Hobson, Horner, Johnson, Kerr, Laster, Laughlin, Lawler, Leftwich (Debbe), Lerblance, Littlefield, Maddox, Milacek, Monson, Morgan, Myers, Nichols, Price, Pruitt, Rabon, Reynolds, Riley, Robinson, Rozell, Shurden, Smith, Snyder, Taylor, Wilkerson, Williams and Williamson of the Senate

and

Coleman, Adair, Adkins, Armes, Askins, Balkman, Benge, Blackburn, Blackwell, Bonny, Boren, Braddock, Brannon, Calvey, Carey, Cargill, Case, Claunch, Covey, Cox, Dank, Davis, Deutschendorf, DeWitt, Dorman, Eddins, 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), Pettigrew, Phillips, Piatt, Plunk, Pope, Reynolds, Rice, Roan, Roberts, 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

A Concurrent Resolution praising the life and public service of Helen Cole; mourning her loss and offering condolences to her family; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Helen TeAta Gale Cole was born July 13, 1922, in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, the daughter of Avis Minnette Fifield (Thompson) and William Oakley Gale. Helen's grandfather was the last Treasurer of the Chickasaw Nation. Her aunt, TeAta, was the noted interpreter of American Indian folklore and the first Native American graduate of the Oklahoma College for Women. Helen Cole was an enrolled member of the Chickasaw Nation, was inducted into the Chickasaw Hall of Fame in 1999, and was an advisor to Bill Anoatubby throughout his service as Governor of the Chickasaw Nation; and

WHEREAS, Helen Cole graduated from Ardmore High School in 1939 and in 1946 married John Dwayne Cole, Sr., whom she had known since elementary school. The couple had two children, John Dwayne, Jr., and Thomas Jeffery. As her husband John Cole, Sr., served in the U.S. Air Force, she became involved in military life, working at military bases both in this country and abroad. Her husband retired after 19 years of service at Tinker Air Force Base. During this time she took a series of jobs in Moore, Oklahoma, to pay for her sons' education; and

WHEREAS, Helen Cole was a member of the Moore, Mustang, and Yukon Chambers of Commerce, the American Legion Auxiliary, and the Oklahoma Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation. She also served on the Administrative Board of the First United Methodist Church of Moore and the Board of Directors of Moore Youth and Family Services; and

WHEREAS, Helen Cole was a delegate to county, state, and national Republican conventions. She served two terms as Republican State Committeewoman from Cleveland County. She was also a precinct chair and campaign coordinator for both Henry Bellmon and Dewey Bartlett; and

WHEREAS, Helen Cole was appointed to the State Personnel Board by Governor Dewey Bartlett. She was elected to the Oklahoma State House of Representatives and served from 1979 until 1984. She was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate in 1984, and after one term, she briefly retired in 1988 to care for family members. She was then elected Mayor of Moore, Oklahoma, and served from 1990 to 1991. She then won a special election to the Oklahoma State Senate in 1991 and served until her second retirement from that body in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Helen Cole was awarded the Moore Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Service of Community of Moore Award in 1981 and received the Common Cause of Oklahoma Outstanding Public Service Award in 1988. She received the Oklahoma Alcohol and Drug Services Award in 1994 and the Sooner Alcohol and Narcotics Education Outstanding Service Award in 1987. During her first term in the Oklahoma House of Representatives, she was designated as one of five outstanding

freshmen by "Hardhat", a publication of the National Marketing Center. She was also named as One of the Ten Best Legislators in Oklahoma by the Oklahoma Observer six times during her legislative career; and

WHEREAS, Helen Cole championed the cause of better government in this state by her relentless support of ethics legislation and other legislation designed to ensure that Oklahoma state government will be operated in the most efficient and effective manner possible. She worked tirelessly to protect the youth of Oklahoma from the dangers of drinking and driving through sponsoring legislation limiting the distribution of alcoholic beverages. Her fight against teen drinking is a lasting legacy; and

WHEREAS, Helen Cole passed away Wednesday, April 7, 2004. Her qualities of honesty, friendship, integrity, forthrightness, intelligence and perseverance have well served all the citizens of this state.

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

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature commends and praises the life of Helen TeAta Gale Cole and expresses its gratitude for her many years of public service to the State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature on behalf of the entire State of Oklahoma mourns the loss of Helen Cole and offers its most heartfelt condolences to her family.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to her two sons, John D. Cole, Jr., and Congressman Tom J. Cole.

Adopted by the Senate the 14th day of April, 2004.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

Adopted by the House of Representatives the 22nd day of April, 2004.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives