ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 23

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

A Resolution commending Ginger Barnes upon the occasion of her retirement from state government; designating Monday, May 5, 2003, "Ginger Barnes Day" in the State of Oklahoma; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the professional career of Ginger Barnes can be characterized as politics preempting formal education, practical experience proving more effective than book learning, and a temporary job that terminated 35 years later; and

WHEREAS, during the second half of the last century, Ginger Barnes graduated from high school in Tecumseh, Oklahoma, and accepted employment with the office of Governor J. Howard Edmondson. Ginger then started an educational process that has lasted all of her life--one of taking every course available from every educational institution within commuting distance; and

WHEREAS, Ginger moved back to Shawnee, working as a medical secretary and medical records librarian. During this period she married, and her daughter Kim was born. Ginger earned a real estate broker's license but preferred showing homes to selling them; and

WHEREAS, Ginger began her temporary career with the Oklahoma State Legislature by working a week for Representative Charlie Morgan while Peggy McPheeters played in a golf tournament. She was then offered a job for a few days with Senator Earnest Martin, then a job of a few more days with Senator Roy Grantham; and

WHEREAS, Ginger Barnes eventually went to work for Senator Gene Stipe. After she spent a week in his office, Senator Stipe finally spoke to her. Senator Stipe offered her a job in his newly created Oklahoma City law office, but Ginger declined the offer. Senator Stipe then asked if she would work with his law partner to help

establish the office. Ginger agreed, but only on a temporary basis. After the law office was established, she was asked to continue to work until they found a replacement. They never did. Ginger began working as a capitol secretary for Senator Stipe during sessions and continued at the law firm during the interim. When the Oklahoma State Senate recognized the need for full-time executive assistants, she accepted that position and has continued until the present time; and

WHEREAS, Ginger Barnes has been a tremendous asset to the Oklahoma State Senate. She is the organizing force behind the Freshman Dinner, acting as unofficial den mother for the newly elected state lawmakers. She also organizes and coordinates the Old Timers Dinner for current and former State Senators. To all State Senators, Ginger acts as a walking reference book, a treasure trove of knowledge, no matter how obscure; and

WHEREAS, Ginger was selected for Class IX of Leadership Oklahoma in 1995-96 and is still active in the organization. She served on the Board of the Oklahoma City Metro Alliance for eight years and was recently honored for her service. Ginger volunteers for the American Cancer Society, serves on the Legislative Committee of the American Red Cross, is a member of the Writers' League of Texas (once known as the Austin Writers' League) and is an active participant with the American Society of Training and Development; and

WHEREAS, on Monday, May 5, 2003, Oklahoma State Senate Executive Assistant, tireless organizer, font of information, and renowned hostess Ginger Barnes will be feted and bid a fond formal farewell by her many friends at the Oklahoma State Capitol with the hope that her absence will only be temporary. She will be spending her time with her grandchildren: Joe III, Jackson, Jade, Jule and Jilian.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commends Executive Assistant Ginger Barnes upon the occasion of her formal retirement from state government.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate designates Monday, May 5, 2003, "Ginger Barnes Day" in the State of Oklahoma.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Ginger Barnes.

Adopted by the Senate the 5th day of May, 2003.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate