STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION HCR1038

By: Balkman, Coleman, Nations and Miller (Doug) of the House

and

Hobson and Nichols of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution praising the life and career of Judge Alan J. Couch; expressing sorrow and condolences for his untimely death; making a permanent record; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, a great sadness has fallen over this state at the passing of a very honorable and distinguished Oklahoman, Judge Alan J. Couch; and

WHEREAS, Judge Alan J. Couch was a man of integrity, a man of honor and a man who faithfully served his fellow Oklahomans leaving behind a legal legacy; and

WHEREAS, this unique man, who was first appointed to the bench in 1969 as a special judge for Cleveland County, and became associate district judge in 1972 and held that office until his death, strived to help all Oklahomans by tirelessly working to improve the juvenile justice system, not only in Cleveland County but also throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Judge Alan J. Couch was Chairman of the original Oklahoma Supreme Court Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee and served on the board of trustees for the National Council of Juvenile

and Family Court Judges where he was recognized nationally for the training programs he developed; and

WHEREAS, Judge Alan J. Couch was a man of many firsts in the field of law; he established the first juvenile restitution program, the first Court Appointed Special Advocate program, the first post-dispositional review board program, the first Comanche Indian Tribal Review Board and the first Juvenile Shelter program in Oklahoma, he was the first judge in Oklahoma to develop the concept of resolution conferences to assist in the preparation and settlement of domestic relations cases, and he established the first divorce visitation arbitration program in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Judge Alan J. Couch received many honors during his career including the highest honor bestowed by the Oklahoma Bar Association, receiving the Liberty Bell Award in 1981, which recognizes individuals and groups for promoting or publicizing matters regarding the legal system; he was also honored for his contribution in the field of juvenile justice by the naming of Cleveland County's juvenile facility in his honor; and

WHEREAS, although death has taken Judge Alan J. Couch from us, the pain of his loss is tempered by his contributions to the field of law and to all Oklahomans which will continue for generations.

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

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature, on behalf of the people of this state, praises the life and career of Judge Alan J. Couch and expresses deepest sorrow for his untimely death.

THAT the Oklahoma Legislature extends heartfelt and sincere condolences to the family of Judge Alan J. Couch.

THAT a copy of this resolution be spread upon the pages of the Journal of the Oklahoma State House of Representatives and the

Journal of the Oklahoma State Senate as a permanent record of the praise and condolences expressed herein.

THAT duly authenticated copies of this resolution be dispatched to his daughter, Tiffany Couch, the Oklahoma Bar Association and the Cleveland County Bar Association.

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