STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 49th Legislature (2003)

SENATE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION 34 By: Crutchfield of the Senate

and

Piatt of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution honoring former Senator Tom Tipps; designating the "Tom Tipps Highway"; requiring the Department of Transportation to place permanent markers on the highway; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Tom Tipps, is the only person from Carter County, Oklahoma, to serve in both Houses of the Oklahoma Legislature, having served from 1952 to 1954 in the Oklahoma House of Representatives, and from 1954 until 1962 in the Oklahoma State Senate. During his service in the Oklahoma State Legislature, Tom Tipps championed and supported veterans programs especially legislation concerning combat-connected disabled American Veterans. While in the Senate, Tom Tipps chaired the Roads and Highways Committee which is now the Transportation Committee. During his legislative tenure and through his efforts, he accomplished his goal of building a four-lane highway from Ardmore, Oklahoma, to the oil patch located in western Carter County, in southern Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Tom Tipps, was born January 25, 1923, the son of Grover H. and Mary Tipps. Tom spent the earlier years of his life in the western area of Carter County, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Tom Tipps joined the United States Army, 45th Infantry Division, on September 16, 1940, and subsequently served in the United States Army Air Corps; and

WHEREAS, during World War II, Tom Tipps flew 64 combat missions over France and Germany in both the P-38 and the P-51 fighter

planes. His plane was known as the "Zaneis Wild Cat." He flew top cover in the allied invasion of Normandy on D-Day. On October 17, 1944, Tom Tipps was shot down by enemy fire during his 64th combat mission. Landing in a tree and breaking his back and leg, Tom said he was happy that he landed in Belgium rather than Germany; and

WHEREAS, as a result of his disability, he retired from the United States Army Air Corps in 1945 with the rank of First Lieutenant. He was awarded numerous citations by the United States Government for his military service; and

WHEREAS, Tom Tipps married Irene Clifft on February 17, 1946, in Gainesville, Texas. The couple has three children, Janie, John, and Michael D., and three grandchildren. Tom and Irene have successfully operated a family business in southern Oklahoma since 1946, and recently celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary.

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

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature hereby acknowledges and recognizes Tom Tipps for outstanding service to western Carter County, his state and country.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature directs that the four-lane highway for which Tom Tipps was responsible, from where State Highway 70 intersects with State Highway 77 west to where it intersects with State Highway 76 in Carter County, be designated as the "Tom Tipps Highway" in his honor.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature directs the Department of Transportation to place suitable permanent markers on the highway bearing his name;

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Tom Tipps and the Department of Transportation.

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