STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 49th Legislature (2004)

SENATE
RESOLUTION 45 By: Milacek

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution commending the professional career of Rural Fire Defense Director Larry Zerger; praising his many contributions; wishing him well upon the occasion of his retirement; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Larry Zerger was hired as Rural Fire Coordinator by the Northern Oklahoma Development Authority (NODA) on August 26, 1982. At that time there were 53 fire departments in NODA's eight-county area. Of these, 47 were all-volunteer departments, five were volunteer/partially paid, and only one was fully paid; and

WHEREAS, Larry Zerger's first major accomplishment was to structure all 47 volunteer fire departments to comply with state statutes. By doing this, all the volunteers benefited as they became eligible for the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension and Retirement System, workers' compensation insurance, and many other benefits that result from a statutorily approved, properly organized volunteer fire department. His work included submitting the appropriate paperwork to the state level on behalf of individual departments; and

WHEREAS, in the next 22 years, Larry Zerger helped form 17 new fire departments and numerous nonprofit support groups for the fire departments and their communities. He again processed the appropriate paperwork with the Secretary of State and the IRS; and

WHEREAS, Larry Zerger was directly responsible for lowering the Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) ratings in 68 of the 70 fire departments in the NODA district, saving its citizens approximately

$2.5 million in insurance premiums over the course of his career. Again, Director Zerger was the one who provided the necessary documentation that resulted in lower rates; and

WHEREAS, Larry Zerger was responsible for obtaining numerous grants to buy fire trucks and equipment, build water towers and fire stations, and even complete municipal water systems. Director Zerger was highly successful in obtaining CDBG and REAP grants to properly equip rural firefighters. His knowledge of available resources was of direct benefit to NODA; and

WHEREAS, Larry Zerger cooperated with other coordinators in every substate planning district to coordinate efforts to impact rural fire service; and

WHEREAS, Larry Zerger's professional career has benefited the residents of NODA and citizens of this state. Northern Oklahoma Development Authority (NODA) Rural Fire Defense Director Larry Zerger will retire at the end of this calendar year.

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

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commends the professional career of Northern Oklahoma Development Authority (NODA) Rural Fire Defense Director Larry Zerger.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate praises the contributions of Larry Zerger, which include bettering the safety of Oklahoma's citizens, developing volunteer fire departments and forming support groups, obtaining grants for new equipment, and saving Oklahomans millions of dollars through lower insurance rates.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate wishes Larry Zerger well upon the occasion of his retirement on December 31, 2004.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Larry Zerger and the Northern Oklahoma Development Authority (NODA).

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