

ENROLLED SENATE  
RESOLUTION NO. 12

By: Jolley, Adelson, Aldridge,  
Anderson, Barrington, Bass,  
Branan, Brogdon, Cain, Capps,  
Coates, Coffee, Corn, Crain,  
Crutchfield, Easley, Eason  
McIntyre, Fisher, Ford,  
Garrison, Gumm, Harrison,  
Hobson, Johnson, Justice, Kerr,  
Lamb, Laster, Laughlin, Lawler,  
Leftwich, Lerblance, Mazzei,  
Monson, Morgan, Myers, Nichols,  
Paddack, Pruitt, Rabon,  
Reynolds, Riley, Shurden,  
Taylor, Wilcoxson, Williamson,  
Wilson and Wyrick

A Resolution commemorating the life and  
accomplishments of the late Jan Pokorny Steele;  
offering condolences to her family and friends; and  
directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Jan Park Pokorny Steele was born on February 4, 1936,  
in Durant, Oklahoma, the daughter of Everett and Vivian Park. She  
graduated from Durant High School in 1954, from Tulsa University  
with a B.M.Ed. in 1958, and from the University of Central Oklahoma  
with an M.M.E. in 1971. She did her doctoral studies at the  
University of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Jan Pokorny Steele taught at the University of Central  
Oklahoma on the music faculty from 1969 through 2000. She was a  
well-known piano teacher whose many successful students testify to  
the professionalism of her craft; and

WHEREAS, Jan Pokorny Steele was a dynamic go-getter, tackle-any-  
project person who expanded the role of music in Edmond, Oklahoma.  
She served on the Board of the Edmond Arts and Humanities Department  
and as an arts advocate paved the way for the excellent quality of  
performing arts in Edmond; and

WHEREAS, Jan Pokorny Steele founded the Chopin Society of Mid-  
America in 1986, served as its President and Executive Director, and  
was its guiding light throughout its history. The Chopin Society of  
Mid-America annually presents the Central Oklahoma Concert Series,  
traditionally a five-concert season; and

WHEREAS, Jan Pokorny Steele received many awards recognizing her  
musical talents including the Paderewski Gold Medal and the Irl  
Allison Gold Medal Award through the National Piano Guild auditions.

She was an active adjudicator for the Oklahoma Music Teachers Association and served on the Board of Judges for the American College of Musicians. She served as President of the Oklahoma City Pianists' Club; and

WHEREAS, Jan Pokorny Steele was listed in "Who's Who of American Women", "Outstanding Young Women of America", and the "International Directory of Distinguished Leadership"; and

WHEREAS, Jan Pokorny Steele was inducted into the Edmond Hall of Fame, received the Oklahoma State Arts Council's Governor's Arts Award, was honored as the University of Central Oklahoma Alumni Association's Distinguished Former Student, was acknowledged as a 40-year member of Oklahoma Music Teachers Association (OMTA), received the Edmond Arts and Humanities Award for Continuous Service in the Arts, was selected for the Outstanding Woman of the Year Award from the Edmond Women's Club for her contribution to the arts, and received the 2003 Roll of Honor Award from the Edmond Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, Jan Pokorny Steele was not only a strong supporter of music but also an avid basketball and football fan who loved life, family, and friends just as much as music. Besides teaching music, Jan was also a poet, and her collected poetry was published in the book "Everyday is Monday"; and

WHEREAS, Jan Pokorny Steele died Monday, February 28, 2005, at Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, having been recently selected the Distinguished Music Teacher of the Year by the Oklahoma Music Teachers Association. She was to be honored at a special concert performed on Sunday, March 6, 2005, in Mitchell Hall on the University of Central Oklahoma campus. At what became her memorial concert, the conductor, Gene Moon, and the pianist, Stuart Deaver, were both students of Jan Pokorny Steele.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 50TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commemorates the life and accomplishments of the late Jan Park Pokorny Steele of Edmond, Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate offers its most sincere condolences to the family and many friends of Jan Pokorny Steele.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Jan Pokorny Steele's husband, Stanley Steele; her mother, Vivian L. Park; daughters, Jana Hightower and Kara Luschen; sister, Cindy Ellis; and the Chopin Society of Mid-America.

Adopted by the Senate the 7th day of April, 2005.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

