

ENROLLED SENATE  
RESOLUTION NO. 21

By: Hobson, Adelson, Aldridge,  
Anderson, Barrington,  
Bass, Branan, Brogdon,  
Cain, Capps, Coates,  
Coffee, Corn, Crain,  
Crutchfield, Easley, Eason  
McIntyre, Fisher, Ford,  
Garrison, Gumm, Harrison,  
Johnson, Jolley, 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 commending State Treasurer Robert A. Butkin; wishing him well upon the occasion of his retirement as State Treasurer; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Robert A. Butkin, a third generation Oklahoman, was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, on November 28, 1952, the son of Morris and Bernice (Raizen) Butkin. Robert Butkin earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Yale College, Magna cum Laude, Distinction in History, his Juris Doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania, and, as a Henry Luce Scholar, was a Visiting Fellow at the University of the Philippines Law Center; and

WHEREAS, Robert Butkin was elected State Treasurer of Oklahoma in 1994, in his first race for elective office. In November 1998, Robert Butkin became the first State Treasurer in Oklahoma history to be reelected without opposition, and, in 2002 he gained reelection without an opponent for a second consecutive time; and

WHEREAS, as the state's chief financial officer Robert Butkin brought integrity, common-sense values and sound business practices to the operations of the Oklahoma State Treasurer's Office. His reforms have generated millions of dollars in savings for Oklahoma taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Treasurer Robert Butkin has been a tireless advocate for the creation of the Oklahoma College Savings Plan, rated as one of the top college savings plans in the nation, and the creation and sound management of the Tobacco Settlement Trust Fund, currently

exceeding \$200 million and growing, the earnings of which are dedicated to public health and education programs in Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Robert Butkin's other notable accomplishments as Treasurer include pioneering the Rural and Affordable Housing Linked Deposit Program, whereby the state invests money in banks that provide loans for developers of specifically targeted housing, and reactivating the Oklahoma Agricultural Linked Deposit Program and the Oklahoma Small Business Linked Deposit Program, which provide interest savings on loans to at-risk farm or ranch operations and to expanding small businesses. Robert Butkin also supervised the transfer of the Unclaimed Property Program to the State Treasurer's Office, and has eliminated a backlog and returned over \$43 million in unclaimed property to Oklahomans; and

WHEREAS, Robert Butkin, after a distinguished career as Oklahoma's State Treasurer and other public service, has accepted a position as the Dean of the University of Tulsa School of Law. Robert Butkin will assume that position on June 1, 2005.

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

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commends Robert Butkin for his outstanding performance as Oklahoma's State Treasurer and extends its heartfelt appreciation for his exemplary service to the State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate bids a fond farewell to Robert Butkin upon the occasion of his retirement as State Treasurer and wishes him the very best in his new position as Dean of the Tulsa University School of Law.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Oklahoma State Treasurer Robert A. Butkin; his wife, the former Nina Aaronson; and their three daughters, Olivia, Julia, and Claire.

Adopted by the Senate the 19th day of May, 2005.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate