

(2ND EXTRAORDINARY SESSION
OF THE 50TH LEGISLATURE)
ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 4XX

By: Lamb

A Resolution commending the late Allen Coles;
offering condolences; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Allen E. Coles was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on October 11, 1927, the son of Allen Eugene Coles, Sr. and Frances DeRose Mather. He lived in Vinita, Oklahoma, until he was eight years old when he moved to Oklahoma City where he attended Grover Cleveland Elementary, Taft Junior High, and Classen High School. Allen attended Oklahoma State University for two years but graduated with a BS degree in Business from the University of Oklahoma where he pledged Sigma Nu; and

WHEREAS, Allen Coles joined the U.S. Marine Corps where he proudly served as a drill instructor in La Jolla, California. Sergeant Coles was honorably discharged after two years of exemplary service; and

WHEREAS, Allen Coles was employed by W & W Steel Company in 1951 and stayed with the company for 49 years, becoming President of the Company in 1967, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Directors in 1977, and finally selling the company to his employees in 2000. During this period, W & W Steel grew from the fifth largest steel fabricator in the state to the fifth largest in the nation; and

WHEREAS, Allen Coles served on the boards of Fidelity Bank, Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, Oklahoma State Chamber of Commerce, Oklahoma Society to Prevent Blindness, Girl Scouts, Young Presidents Organization, Oklahoma Independent College Foundation, and the Oklahoma City All Sports Association. He also served as Chair of the Red Earth Festival, President of Swing for Sight, Director of the Royal Order of Jesters, and President of the Guthrie Scottish Rite Charitable and Educational Foundation. He was a 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason and Shriner; and

WHEREAS, Allen Coles was appointed to the first Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission in January 1983 and became the Commission's first Chair. His term included the adoption of the Commission's first "Rules of Racing" and opening of Oklahoma's first pari-mutuel racetrack. He also served on the board of the National Association of State Racing Commissioners. In 1984 he was named "Man of the Year" by the Horse Council, and in 1986 the National Association of State Racing Commissioners made him an honorary life member for his service to the industry; and

WHEREAS, Allen Coles was one of the first "Hockey Hounds" and helped bring professional hockey to Oklahoma City. The Blazers named their Most Valuable Player Award the "Coles Cup" in his honor. He was a strong supporter of Oklahoma County law enforcement and was involved with the Oklahoma Community Sentencing Council. Together with his wife, Susan, they built Coles Garden, a floral and sculpture garden. Allen Coles died Monday, June 12, 2006, at the age of 78.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE 50TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commends the full life and successful career of the late Allen E. Coles and praises his role as a business, civic, and sports leader.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate offers it most sincere and heartfelt condolences to the family, friends, and coworkers of Allen E. Coles.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Allen Coles' wife, the former Susan Brooks; his children, Debbie Sullivan, Jerry Coles, Patricia Carignan, Randy Coles, and Angie Cella; Coles Garden; and the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission.

Adopted by the Senate the 23rd day of June, 2006.

Presiding Officer of the Senate