

ENROLLED SENATE  
RESOLUTION NO. 60

By: Corn, Adelson, Aldridge,  
Anderson, Ballenger,  
Barrington, Bass, Bingman,  
Branan, Brogdon, Brown,  
Burrage, Coates, Coffee,  
Crain, Crutchfield,  
Easley, Eason McIntyre,  
Ford, Garrison, Gumm,  
Ivester, Johnson  
(Constance), Johnson  
(Mike), Jolley, Justice,  
Lamb, Laster, Laughlin,  
Leftwich, Lerblance,  
Mazzei, Morgan, Myers,  
Nichols, Paddack, Rabon,  
Reynolds, Rice, Riley,  
Schulz, Sparks, Sweeden,  
Sykes, Wilcoxson,  
Williamson, Wilson and  
Wyrick

A Resolution commending the life and career of Regna  
Lee Wood; offering condolences; and directing  
distribution.

WHEREAS, Regna Lee, the daughter of Otto Lee and Bessie Simpson,  
was born June 15, 1924, at Saint Anthony's Hospital in Oklahoma  
City, Oklahoma. She was baptized in the First Presbyterian Church  
in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Regna attended Oklahoma City public  
schools - Eugene Fields Grade School, Harding Junior High School,  
where she was student body President, and Classen High School; and

WHEREAS, Regna Lee received bachelor's and master's degrees from  
Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. While attending  
Northwestern's Speech School, her classmates included Charleston

Heston, Paul Lynde, Pat Neal, Martha Hyer, Jean Verhagen, and Chloris Leachman. Also while there, Regna was in the cast of "Bachelor's Children", a Chicago radio serial. During World War II, while a student at Northwestern, she accumulated over 1,000 hours as a nurse's aide at Chicago's Cook County Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Regna Lee returned to Oklahoma at the age of 22 and became a member of the teaching staff in the Speech Department at the University of Oklahoma. In the fall of 1947, Regna Lee married Fox Wood III in the First Presbyterian Church in Oklahoma City. The couple moved to Jackson, Mississippi, where Regna Lee Wood established the Department of Speech and Drama at Millsaps College and participated in Little Theater; and

WHEREAS, when the couple moved to Stillwater, Oklahoma, in 1949, Regna taught for the English Department at Oklahoma A&M College. The couple moved to Poteau, Oklahoma, in 1950, where they began ranching and farming and eventually moved to Cache Creek Ranch in 1955; and

WHEREAS, Regna Lee Wood taught Freshman English and Composition at Connors State College in Warner, Oklahoma, then English and Speech at Westark Community College – now the University of Arkansas – at Fort Smith, Arkansas. At that point in her life she became concerned with the poor educational background of her college students. Regna Lee Wood devoted the rest of her life to research in literacy and public education; and

WHEREAS, Regna Lee Wood became Director of Statistical Research for the National Right to Read Foundation. Her articles on education and literacy appeared in publications of the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs, the Heartland Institute, the Hudson Institute, and in the "National Review". In 1999, after composing a complete phonics reading program, she established Sound Letters, Inc., to publish and market her program. She was a member of the Correctional Education Association, and her program is being used with great success in a number of prisons; and

WHEREAS, Regna Lee Wood was active in Republican Party activities on the county, state, and national level. She served as LeFlore County Chair and Vice Chair of the 3rd Congressional

District. In 1980, she was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in Dallas, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Regna Lee Wood died Monday, March 3, 2008, at her home on the family ranch near Spiro, Oklahoma, after a valiant 18-year struggle with cancer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 51ST OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commends the life and career of Regna Lee Wood, recognizing her many talents and contributions.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate offers its most sincere condolences to the family and friends of Regna Lee Wood and joins them in mourning the loss of this outstanding Oklahoman.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Regna Lee Wood's husband of 60 years, Fox Wood III, and their three sons, Fox Wood IV, Clark Wood, and Stephen Wood.

Adopted by the Senate the 1st day of April, 2008.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate