

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 99

By: Rabon, Adelson, Aldridge,
Anderson, Ballenger,
Barrington, Bass, Bingman,
Branan, Brogdon, Brown,
Burrage, Coates, Coffee,
Corn, 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, Reynolds,
Rice, Riley, Schulz,
Sparks, Sweeden, Sykes,
Wilcoxson, Williamson,
Wilson and Wyrick

A Resolution recognizing Bill Moyers as a native son;
commending his achievements and contributions; and
directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Billy Don (Bill) Moyers was born June 5, 1934, in Hugo, Oklahoma, the son of John Henry Moyers and Ruby Johnson Moyers. At the age of 15 he was a cub reporter for his local newspaper. Bill Moyers studied journalism at the University of North Texas but transferred to the University of Texas at Austin where he graduated in 1956; and

WHEREAS, while at the University of Texas, Bill Moyers wrote for the "Daily Texan". He studied for a year at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, as a Rotary International Fellow. Bill Moyers received his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Southwestern Baptist

Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1957. Two years later he was ordained as a Baptist minister. He planned to enter a PhD program at the University of Texas and accepted an opportunity to teach Christian ethics at Baylor University; and

WHEREAS, in 1954 Bill Moyers was a summer intern for United States Senator Lyndon B. Johnson where he was in charge of the senator's personal mail. While in Austin, Texas, he worked at KTBC Radio and Television, both owned by Lady Bird Johnson. In 1960 he served as a top aide in Lyndon Johnson's presidential bid. After Senator Johnson was selected as a Vice Presidential candidate, Moyers served as a liaison between the Kennedy and Johnson campaigns. In the Kennedy Administration, Bill Moyers was Associate Director of Public Affairs, then Deputy Director of the Peace Corps. After Lyndon Johnson became President, Bill Moyers became his special assistant, adviser, chief speech writer, informal chief of staff, and White House Press Secretary; and

WHEREAS, in December 1966, Bill Moyers left the White House to become publisher for the Long Island daily newspaper, "Newsday", a position he held until 1970. In 1971 he began working for Public Broadcasting System (PBS). He then worked as an editor and corresponded for "CBS Reports", then in the 1980s, as a senior news analyst and commentator for the CBS Evening News before returning to PBS. It was as a host and commentator on documentaries narrated and hosted by Moyers and shown by PBS that he made his mark and his most acclaimed contributions. A bibliography of his television credits is almost seven pages in length; and

WHEREAS, Bill Moyers has been awarded both the Silver and the Gold Baton from Alfred I. DuPont/Columbia University; received 30 Emmy Awards from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences; was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; won the 1996 National Endowment for the Humanities National Humanities Medal; received three George Polk Career Awards; was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the American Film Institute; and was selected to receive a Lifetime Peabody Award.

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

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes Bill Moyers as a native son, a true child of Choctaw County and the great American Southwest.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commends Bill Moyers for his many communication-related achievements and his distinguished contributions to American mass media.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Hugo, Oklahoma, native Bill Moyers.

Adopted by the Senate the 22nd day of May, 2008.

Presiding Officer of the Senate