

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Thursday, March 6, 2008

ENGROSSED

Senate Concurrent  
Resolution No. 56

ENGROSSED SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 56 - By: MORGAN, COFFEE, ANDERSON, ADELSON, ALDRIDGE, BALLENGER, BARRINGTON, BASS, BINGMAN, BRANAN, BROGDON, BROWN, BURRAGE, COATES, CORN, CRAIN, CRUTCHFIELD, EASLEY, EASON MCINTYRE, FORD, GARRISON, GUMM, IVESTER, JOHNSON (CONSTANCE), JOHNSON (MIKE), JOLLEY, JUSTICE, LAMB, LASTER, LAUGHLIN, LEFTWICH, LERBLANCE, MAZZEI, MYERS, NICHOLS, PADDACK, RABON, REYNOLDS, RICE, RILEY, SCHULZ, SPARKS, SWEEDEN, SYKES, WILCOXSON, WILLIAMSON, WILSON AND WYRICK of the Senate and BENGE of the House.

A Concurrent Resolution commending the life and accomplishments of Richard L. Huddleston and expressing condolences to his family; and directing distribution.

1       WHEREAS, Richard L. Huddleston was born in Oklahoma City February 22, 1936,  
2       and was a lifelong proud citizen of the State of Oklahoma until his death on February 28,  
3       2008. Following his active duty service in the U.S. Air Force from 1953 to 1957, he was  
4       hired for a three-week temporary job in the mailroom of the Oklahoma House of  
5       Representatives which was the beginning of a distinguished career spanning more than a  
6       quarter of a century and culminating in his appointment as the Chief Clerk-  
7       Administrator, the highest non-elective position in the House of Representatives; and

1           WHEREAS, during his career with the House of Representatives, Richard L.  
2 Huddleston served six Speakers of the House, including former Speakers Bill Harkey,  
3 who hired him; J.D. McCarty, his mentor; and Dan Draper, who became his dear friend,  
4 in addition to more than six hundred House Members; and

5           WHEREAS, Richard L. Huddleston gave his advice and counsel to House leaders  
6 and rank and file alike, all of whom remember him as an expert on legislative rules and  
7 procedures who insisted on adherence to the rules of lawmaking, both written and  
8 unwritten, for the benefit of the institution because he fervently believed bending the  
9 rules for political expedience weakened the strength of the body to which the members  
10 had been elected; and

11           WHEREAS, during his tenure, Richard L. Huddleston's leadership guided the  
12 House of Representatives into the modern era, including such reforms as the first  
13 election of the House Speaker by the members of that body rather than by appointment  
14 of the Governor, the first reapportionment of legislative districts, the end of the regular  
15 practice of using the Committee of the Whole and the end of the annual practice of  
16 covering the House clock to extend the session beyond the time set for sine die  
17 adjournment; and

18           WHEREAS, as the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives,  
19 Richard L. Huddleston was responsible for designing the structure of the independent  
20 House staff and the hiring of the employees for that first staff, and he was personally  
21 responsible for encouraging and fostering the careers of many successful House

1 employees who later became leaders in their professions, in politics, in public  
2 administration, in higher education and in private business; and

3 WHEREAS, the mutual admiration, respect and deep friendships Richard L.  
4 Huddleston developed with members of the House of Representatives were a great asset  
5 to him when, following his retirement from the House of Representatives in 1983, he  
6 began his second successful career by founding the independent-contract lobbying firm of  
7 Huddleston Investments, Inc.; and in this capacity his long experience on the marble  
8 halls of his beloved State Capitol was extended to include the members of the Oklahoma  
9 State Senate and his dear friends and colleagues with whom he worked for nearly  
10 another quarter of a century until his retirement in 2007; and

11 WHEREAS, while his family remembers with pride his many personal and  
12 professional accomplishments, Richard L. Huddleston was most proud of his three sons,  
13 Steven, Gary and Dale, and his five grandchildren, Alisha, Meghan, Justis, Zach and  
14 Ashlee; and they will remember that, next to his devotion to his family, his country and  
15 his great pride in Oklahoma's rich heritage, Richard L. Huddleston held most dear the  
16 sanctity of our participant democracy and dedicated his entire professional life to  
17 preserving the integrity of the legislative process.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND  
19 SESSION OF THE 51ST OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF  
20 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

21 THAT the current members of the Oklahoma State Legislature, on behalf of all  
22 former Representatives, Senators and Governors who served during his long tenure,

1 commend the full life and many accomplishments of their loyal friend, Richard L.  
2 Huddleston, and extend their condolences to his family.

3 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to his wife, Margaret R. Huddleston,  
4 his sons, Steven Lewis Huddleston, Robert Gary Huddleston and Richard Dale  
5 Huddleston, and his grandchildren, Alisha Dale, Meghan Rose, Richard Justis, Zachary  
6 Dale and Ashlee Nicole Huddleston.

7 DIRECT TO CALENDAR: 03-06-08