

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 51st Legislature (2007)

3 SENATE
4 RESOLUTION 11

By: Jolley

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution praising the career of Dr. Garland A.
8 Godfrey; mourning his loss; and directing
9 distribution.

10
11 WHEREAS, Garland Alonzo Godfrey was born November 5, 1909, in
12 rural Arkansas. One of ten children born to cotton farmers, he
13 graduated from Magazine Industrial Institute in 1928, where he was
14 class Valedictorian. He attended Arkansas Tech University in
15 Russeville, Arkansas, for two years, then transferred to what was
16 then Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College in Stillwater,
17 Oklahoma, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in
18 1933, a Masters degree in English in 1936, and received his
19 Doctorate in Education in 1957; and

20 WHEREAS, Garland Godfrey started his first teaching job in
21 Kansas, Oklahoma, in 1933 and a year later was chosen as high school
22 principal. He served as Superintendent of Pryor Schools from 1939
23 through 1952, then as Superintendent of Durant Schools from 1952
24 through 1960; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Garland Godfrey, at the age of 50 years, was
2 selected in 1960 as the 16th President of Central State Teachers
3 College in Edmond, Oklahoma, a position he held until his retirement
4 in 1975. During Dr. Godfrey's tenure as President, enrollment grew
5 from 3,500 students to 15,000. In 1971 the school was designated
6 Central State University, the state's third largest university. The
7 school was reorganized into five undergraduate schools and a
8 graduate school. Also during President Garland's tenure, 21 of the
9 buildings on campus were either erected or renovated, and the campus
10 expanded from 20 to 200 acres. While the primary purpose of the
11 institution remained teaching, scholarly research and direct service
12 received greater emphasis under his direction; and

13 WHEREAS, Garland Godfrey served as President of the Oklahoma
14 Association of School Administrators in 1949; as President of the
15 Oklahoma Education Association in 1950 and 1951; as a Fullbright
16 Visiting Educator in Pakistan in 1964; and as a Director of the
17 National Education Association for 12 years; and

18 WHEREAS, Dr. Garland Godfrey received an award for Outstanding
19 Educational Leadership from the Durant Board of Education in 1960;
20 was named to the Hall of Distinction of Arkansas Tech University in
21 1968; was recognized with a Boss of the Year Award by the Jaycees in
22 1972; and was selected to receive the Edmond Citizen of the Year
23 Award in 1973. Dr. Godfrey was also inducted into the Oklahoma
24 Higher Education Hall of Fame in 1995; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Garland Godfrey was an accomplished fisherman; he
2 wrote and recited poetry; and he served as Minister of Music at his
3 church in Pryor, Oklahoma, and as a Deacon at the First Baptist
4 Church in Edmond, Oklahoma, where he also taught the men's Sunday
5 School classes; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. Garland A. Godfrey died February 14, 2007, in
7 Dallas, Texas, at the age of 97 years.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION
9 OF THE 51ST OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

10 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate praises the career of one of
11 Oklahoma's great educators, Dr. Garland A. Godfrey, 16th President
12 of what is now the University of Central Oklahoma.

13 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate joins the residents of Edmond,
14 Oklahoma, and the entire academic community of the State of Oklahoma
15 in mourning the loss of this outstanding educator.

16 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Dr. Garland
17 Godfrey's wife, Miriam Jocile (Morris); the President of the
18 University of Central Oklahoma for appropriate usage during the
19 "celebration of life" honoring the Godfrey family; and the Oklahoma
20 Higher Education Heritage Society.

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