

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE  
4 RESOLUTION 28

By: Nichols

5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution praising the public service career of  
8 Gary Gardenhire; wishing him well upon his  
9 retirement; and directing distribution.

10  
11 WHEREAS, George W. Gardenhire was the first President of the  
12 Territorial Council of Oklahoma and founded both the Oklahoma  
13 Farmer's Alliance and Oklahoma A&M College in Stillwater, Oklahoma.  
14 His great-grandnephew, Gary Wayne Gardenhire, was born on November  
15 7, 1945, in Sulphur, Oklahoma, the son of Thad and Jessie  
16 Gardenhire. Gary received his bachelor's degree from the University  
17 of Texas in 1968; and

18 WHEREAS, Gary Gardenhire was a Field Artillery Officer in the  
19 United States Army his entire military career. Gary Gardenhire  
20 served in Vietnam from 1969 to 1970, and earned the Bronze Star and  
21 the Army Commendation Medal. His service in the Republic of Vietnam  
22 culminated in his role as fire support planner and coordination  
23 officer for the invasion of Cambodia along the "Fish Hook" sector of  
24 the Cambodian border. Leaving active duty, Gary Gardenhire served

1 in the Oklahoma Army National Guard from 1974 through 1976. He then  
2 rejoined the United States Army Reserve, 95th Division, Maneuver  
3 Training Command, from 1983 through 1990. In 2001 he joined the  
4 staff of the 75th Division and served through 2003 on active duty  
5 with the General Staff as Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence  
6 and Security; and

7       WHEREAS, Gary Gardenhire received his Juris Doctorate from the  
8 University of Oklahoma in 1975. He was Phi Alpha Delta law  
9 fraternity's Outstanding Legal Scholar in 1974 and was on the OU Law  
10 Dean's Honor Roll in 1974 and 1975. He was a member of the  
11 Cleveland County, Oklahoma State, and Federal Bar Associations as  
12 well as the member of the bar of the United States Supreme Court,  
13 5th and 10th Circuit Courts of Appeal, and other United States  
14 District Courts; and

15       WHEREAS, Gary Gardenhire's business career included being a  
16 partner in an oil and gas exploration company, a financial  
17 consultant, and an attorney. He was a member of the Norman Chamber  
18 of Commerce, Norman Friends of the Library, Cleveland County  
19 Cattlemen's Association, and the Norman School Foundation; and

20       WHEREAS, Gary Gardenhire's state service began in 1981 when he  
21 served as Assistant State Attorney General, Chief of the Civil  
22 Division. In 1986 he was elected as State Senator from District 16.  
23 While in the Oklahoma State Senate, Senator Gardenhire served as  
24 Assistant Whip and as both Republican Party Caucus Secretary and

1 Chair. Senator Gardenhire served on the state's first Bond  
2 Oversight Committee, coauthored the endowed chair program for  
3 Oklahoma Higher Education, and was a major participant in the  
4 creation of the Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and  
5 Technology (OCAST). However, his greatest impact on the political  
6 process was as principal author of the nation's first state  
7 legislative term limit initiative. He was active in promoting and  
8 defending the term limit concept in both public debate and the  
9 courts; and

10 WHEREAS, Gary Gardenhire served with distinction as General  
11 Counsel of the Oklahoma State Department of Health from 2000 through  
12 2006. It was in this position that he took a firm stand defending  
13 the Health Department's right to enact rules prohibiting indoor  
14 smoking in public places; and

15 WHEREAS, Gary Gardenhire received the Legion of Merit medal for  
16 his exceptionally meritorious conduct and outstanding service while  
17 a Field Artillery Officer in the United State Army throughout his  
18 military career, serving his nation during the Vietnam conflict, the  
19 Gulf War and during the invasion of Iraq in 2003. Gary Gardenhire  
20 retired from the United States Army Reserve with the rank of Colonel  
21 after 36 years of service in 2006 and as General Counsel for the  
22 Oklahoma Health Department in February 2007.

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

1        THAT the Oklahoma State Senate praises Gary W. Gardenhire's  
2 public service career on both the state and federal level.

3        THAT the Oklahoma State Senate wishes former State Senator Gary  
4 Gardenhire best wishes upon the occasion of his formal retirement  
5 from public service.

6        THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to former Oklahoma  
7 State Senator Gary W. Gardenhire; his son, Damon; and daughters,  
8 Kathleen and Jennifer.

9  
10        51-1-1894            THC            11/26/2007 2:09:20 PM

11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24