

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 51st Legislature (2008)

3 SENATE
4 RESOLUTION 60

By: Corn

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

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

10
11 WHEREAS, Regna Lee, the daughter of Otto Lee and Bessie Simpson,
12 was born June 15, 1924, at Saint Anthony's Hospital in Oklahoma
13 City, Oklahoma. She was baptized in the First Presbyterian Church
14 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Regna attended Oklahoma City public
15 schools - Eugene Fields Grade School, Harding Junior High School,
16 where she was student body President, and Classen High School; and

17 WHEREAS, Regna Lee received bachelor's and master's degrees from
18 Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. While attending
19 Northwestern's Speech School, her classmates included Charleston
20 Heston, Paul Lynde, Pat Neal, Martha Hyer, Jean Verhagen, and
21 Chloris Leachman. Also while there, Regna was in the cast of
22 "Bachelor's Children", a Chicago radio serial. During World War II,
23 while a student at Northwestern, she accumulated over 1,000 hours as
24 a nurse's aide at Chicago's Cook County Hospital; and

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

8 WHEREAS, when the couple moved to Stillwater, Oklahoma, in 1949,
9 Regna taught for the English Department at Oklahoma A&M College.
10 The couple moved to Poteau, Oklahoma, in 1950, where they began
11 ranching and farming and eventually moved to Cache Creek Ranch in
12 1955; and

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

20 WHEREAS, Regna Lee Wood became Director of Statistical Research
21 for the National Right to Read Foundation. Her articles on
22 education and literacy appeared in publications of the Oklahoma
23 Council of Public Affairs, the Heartland Institute, the Hudson
24 Institute, and in the "National Review". In 1999, after composing a

1 complete phonics reading program, she established Sound Letters,
2 Inc., to publish and market her program. She was a member of the
3 Correctional Education Association, and her program is being used
4 with great success in a number of prisons; and

5 WHEREAS, Regna Lee Wood was active in Republican Party
6 activities on the county, state, and national level. She served as
7 LeFlore County Chair and Vice Chair of the 3rd Congressional
8 District. In 1980, she was a delegate to the Republican National
9 Convention in Dallas, Texas; and

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

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

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

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

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

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