

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE

4 RESOLUTION 70

By: Rice and Sparks

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution honoring the memory of the late S. J.
8 Sarkeys; praising the Sarkeys Foundation for its many
9 contributions to the state; and directing
10 distribution.

11 WHEREAS, Stephen Joseph Sarkeys was born in Lebanon in 1874. At
12 the age of 17 he emigrated to the United States. Later, S. J.
13 Sarkeys visited his brother in St. Louis, Missouri, where his
14 brother demonstrated to him the new invention of the carbide lamp.
15 Believing there was a market for the lamps, S. J. Sarkeys traveled
16 to Oklahoma where he began selling them. His business expanded into
17 purchasing farmland and later oil and gas leases. During his
18 lifetime, S. J. Sarkeys made and lost several fortunes; and

19 WHEREAS, S. J. Sarkeys established the Sarkeys Foundation in
20 1962 with 2,750 shares of Sarkeys Inc. stock worth \$5 million.
21 S. J. Sarkeys died at the age of 90 years on July 21, 1965. Since
22 that time the Sarkeys Foundation has distributed grants in excess of
23 \$55 million. With assets of more than \$100 million, it provides
24 grants to a diverse group of Oklahoma nonprofit organizations and

1 institutions. Each year the Sarkeys Foundation usually grants more
2 than \$4 million divided among 50 recipients; and

3 WHEREAS, major areas of support include education, health care,
4 medical research, and cultural and humanitarian programs of regional
5 significance. The Sarkeys Foundation also provides board retreat
6 grants, educational programs, a conference center, a research
7 library, and a nonprofit incubator. The goal of the Sarkeys
8 Foundation is to improve the quality of life in Oklahoma.

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

11 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate honors the memory of the late S.
12 J. Sarkeys and recognizes his many endeavors, including the
13 establishment of the Sarkeys Foundation.

14 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate praises the Sarkeys Foundation
15 for its generosity, good works, and many contributions to the State
16 of Oklahoma.

17 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Board of
18 Trustees of the Sarkeys Foundation.

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