

1 ENGROSSED SENATE  
2 CONCURRENT  
3 RESOLUTION NO. 50

By: Corn, Adelson, Aldridge,  
Anderson, Ballenger,  
Barrington, Bass, Bingman,  
Branan, Brogdon, Brown,  
Burrage, Coates, Coffee,  
Crain, Crutchfield, Easley,  
Eason McIntyre, Ellis,  
Ford, Garrison, Gumm,  
Halligan, Ivester, Johnson  
(Constance), Johnson  
(Mike), Jolley, Justice,  
Lamb, Laster, Leftwich,  
Lerblance, Marlatt, Mazzei,  
Myers, Newberry, Nichols,  
Paddack, Reynolds, Rice,  
Russell, Schulz, Sparks,  
Stanislawski, Sweeden,  
Sykes, Wilson and Wyrick of  
the Senate

12 and

13 Brannon of the House

14  
15  
16 A Concurrent Resolution recognizing the legendary  
17 status of F. L. Holton Jr.; mourning his loss; and  
18 directing distribution.

19 WHEREAS, F. L. Holton Jr. was born in Cameron, Oklahoma, on  
20 November 10, 1919, the son of F. L. Holton Sr. and Eva Holton. He  
21 graduated from Poteau High School in 1937 and was awarded a degree  
22 in Business Administration from Oklahoma A&M College in 1941; and

23 WHEREAS, a veteran of World War II, F. L. Holton Jr. served four  
24 years in the Army Air Corps. He entered as a private, attended

1 Officer Candidate School at Yale University, served in a B-17 group,  
2 attended contract school at Harvard University, and then served as a  
3 contract officer assigned to aircraft plants. He was discharged as  
4 a captain in 1946; and

5 WHEREAS, after the war F. L. Holton Jr. returned to Poteau,  
6 Oklahoma, and joined his father in expanding the family businesses,  
7 which would include a supermarket, hardware and furniture store,  
8 department store, retail feed store, and automobile dealerships. As  
9 manager of the Holton General Merchandise store, he expanded the  
10 retail operation from a 3,500 square-foot general merchandise store  
11 to 45,000 square feet in four locations. At one time, Holton-owned  
12 businesses accounted for ten percent of the total sales tax  
13 collected in LeFlore County. He served as President of Holton  
14 Stores; and

15 WHEREAS, F. L. Holton Jr. operated a large cow-calf operation  
16 and pioneered the development of the poultry industry in Eastern  
17 Oklahoma. By 1952, he was producing two million broilers and 40,000  
18 turkeys each year. His cow-calf operation was located on his 10,000  
19 acre ranch northeast of Poteau, Oklahoma. In 1956, F. L. founded  
20 Holton Mills to manufacture feed for the cattle and chicken  
21 industries. He served as President of Holton Cattle Company, and  
22 his agricultural endeavors were located in three counties: Ellis  
23 and LeFlore in Oklahoma and Hansford County in Texas; and

24

1           WHEREAS, in 1954, F. L. Holton Jr. was named to the Board of  
2 Directors of Central National Bank in Poteau. In 1967, he became  
3 Vice President; and in 1978, he was elected Chairman. Since that  
4 time, the bank has grown from \$34 million to more than \$150 million  
5 and continually ranks as one of the highest-performing banks in  
6 Oklahoma. In 2004, he was inducted into the Oklahoma Bankers  
7 Association's 50-Year Club, denoting individuals who have devoted 50  
8 years or more of their lives to banking careers; and

9           WHEREAS, F. L. Holton Jr. served in leadership positions in the  
10 Poteau Rotary Club, the Poteau Chamber of Commerce, the Poteau  
11 Industrial Authority, the United Fund, and the Eastern Oklahoma  
12 Historical Society. His knowledge about LeFlore County's history  
13 was encyclopedic. In 1990, he was selected for the Rotary  
14 International Paul Harris Award; and in 1992, he was the first  
15 recipient of the Poteau Lifetime Contribution Award; and

16           WHEREAS, F. L. Holton Jr. was a charter member of the Board of  
17 Regents of Carl Albert State College, formed in 1971. He was both  
18 the oldest and longest-serving regent in the state. In 1993, F. L.  
19 Holton Jr. was inducted into the Carl Albert State College Hall of  
20 Fame. In 1997, his family established the F. L. Holton Endowed  
21 Professorship. The Carl Albert State College Business Center is  
22 named in his honor. During his tenure on the Board of Regents, the  
23 school's enrollment grew from 200 students to more than 2,400; and

24

1       WHEREAS, F. L. Holton Jr. also served for 20 years on the Board  
2 of Trustees for Phillips University, serving as Chairman for four  
3 years. He was a charter member of the Board of Governors for the  
4 Oklahoma State University Development Foundation, serving for 19  
5 years with two terms on their Executive Committee. He also served  
6 for 20 years as a College of Business Associate at Oklahoma State  
7 University. F. L. Holton Jr. was inducted into the Oklahoma State  
8 University College of Business Hall of Fame; and in 1990, he was  
9 honored with the OSU Alumni Service Award; and

10       WHEREAS, F. L. Holton Jr. was an active member of the First  
11 Christian Church of Poteau. He served as an Elder, Board Chairman  
12 and taught Sunday School classes. He served as Vice President of  
13 the Oklahoma Christian Men's Fellowship and was named Layman of the  
14 Year for Oklahoma Christian Churches; and

15       WHEREAS, F. L. Holton Jr. died at his home in Poteau, Oklahoma,  
16 on Sunday, November 15, 2009, at the age of 90 years.

17       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION  
18 OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
19 CONCURRING THEREIN:

20       THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature recognizes the late F. L.  
21 Holton Jr. for his philanthropy, business sense, and civic  
22 involvement that made him a legend in Eastern Oklahoma.  
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