

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 58

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

A Resolution commending the military career of
Colonel Perry Woolridge; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Perry Bill Woolridge was born at Roff, Oklahoma, on August 22, 1918. He attended Chilocco Indian School and graduated with the class of 1938. Perry Woolridge also attended Draughan's Business College in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and Blackwood-Davis Business College in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Perry Woolridge joined the Army National Guard while a high school student. He was mobilized with the 45th Infantry Division when it was ordered into active federal service. During

World War II, he participated in four amphibious landings and eight major campaigns; and

WHEREAS, Perry Woolridge, after spending 1945 with the Veterans Administration, joined the Oklahoma Military Department in 1946 and stayed with the Oklahoma Army National Guard until his retirement in 1978. He served as a personnel officer until 1961 when he became Executive Officer of the Oklahoma Military Department. In his last assignment as Chief of the Military Support to Civil Authorities Section, he prepared and maintained plans for providing military assistance to civil authorities during emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Perry Woolridge began his military career as a Private and retired as a Colonel. During his career he graduated from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania. While at the Army War College, Colonel Woolridge authored "An Analysis of the Selected Reserve Forces Systems", a study that made recommendations on how to enable Army National Guard units to achieve and maintain an enduring high level of readiness; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Perry Woolridge was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Medal, American Defense Service Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal and eight campaign stars and arrowhead for amphibious assault landing, World War II Victory Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Hour Glass Device, Combat Infantryman Badge, Oklahoma Meritorious Service Medal, and the Oklahoma Long Service Medal. He received a commendation by the Commanding General, 45th Infantry Division, on August 20, 1947, for outstanding service as Personnel Officer, 279th Infantry; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Perry Woolridge is affiliated with the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), American Legion, Military Order of World Wars, National Guard Association of the United States, 45th Infantry Division Association, U.S. Civil Defense Council, Oklahoma Civil Defense Directors Association, and the Oklahoma Military Historical Commission; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Woolridge is the uncle of the late Nicholas "Coach" Durant, a famous basketball coach in the Poteau, Oklahoma, area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commends the military career of Colonel Perry B. Woolridge, a career that spanned five decades, that included service in both the U.S. Army and the Oklahoma National Guard, that took him from Private to Colonel, and that focused on defending our state and nation whether it was as a combat infantryman in World War II or a planner preparing to assist civil authorities during an emergency.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Colonel Perry B. Woolridge and his wife Mayselle.

Adopted by the Senate the 20th day of May, 2009.

Presiding Officer of the Senate