

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 63

By: Sykes

A Resolution praising the public service of Senator Wayne Holden; mourning his passing; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Wayne Millard Holden was born to Ramon H. and Maudie Wilson Holden in Loco, Oklahoma, May 29, 1918. Wayne, the oldest of four children, started school at Mountain Grove, then attended school at Santa Fe, and then Loco before his father was transferred to Maud, Oklahoma. Wayne graduated from Maud High School and enrolled in East Central State where he met his wife Carolyn Marie Morgan; and

WHEREAS, Wayne and Carolyn moved to Duncan, Oklahoma, in 1941 where Wayne found employment with Halliburton Oil Well Cementing Company. Wayne Holden continued as a Halliburton employee until 1983; and

WHEREAS, it was Erle Halliburton who convinced Wayne to run for Mayor of Duncan in 1950, a position he held until 1962 when Holden was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives. After one two-year term in the House, Wayne Holden was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate in 1964. He was the first freshman to ever chair the Oil and Gas Committee. During his 12 years as State Senator, he was Majority Whip for two of his three terms; and

WHEREAS, among the many accomplishments of Senator Wayne Holden were the introduction of a bill that exempts proceeds from profit-sharing plans from Oklahoma estate tax and a bill that exempts surviving spouses from the estate tax. His legislation created the State Fire Marshal's office, established the War Veterans Commission of Oklahoma, and founded the Oklahoma Water Resources Board. He

sponsored legislation to build the Veterinary Diagnostic Center and Veterinary Teaching School, enlarged the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, and created the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. He proposed and passed legislation that successfully built the School of Dentistry in Oklahoma City and Osteopathic School in Tulsa; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Holden was again elected Mayor of Duncan, Oklahoma, in the 1980s and served two consecutive terms. Known to all as "The Mayor", he introduced the city charter still in use, created the municipal court system, established the Independent Electric System, and worked successfully to create Clear Creek Lake, Lake Fuqua, and Lake Humphreys; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Holden received many awards and official recognition for his service to the public. The Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, the Oklahoma Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, the War Veterans Association, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma Baptist University, the Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association, the South Central Regional Energy Board, and the Stephens County Bar Association all recognized Wayne Holden's outstanding service and many contributions; and

WHEREAS, Wayne Holden died February 27, 2009, at the age of 90 years. As Lieutenant Governor Jari Askins said in Executive Order 2009-10, "Senator Holden was a true Oklahoman and a deeply committed public servant who loved the state of Oklahoma and its people".

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

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate praises the outstanding and lengthy public service of Senator Wayne Holden whose influence has been felt not only in Duncan, Oklahoma, but throughout the entire State of Oklahoma.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate joins the many family members and numerous friends of Senator Wayne Holden in mourning the passing of this dedicated public servant and offers its most sincere condolences.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Holden family and the Stephens County Historical Museum.

Adopted by the Senate the 19th day of May, 2009.

Presiding Officer of the Senate