

ENROLLED SENATE  
RESOLUTION NO. 64

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

A Resolution recognizing the worth of Wayman Tisdale; mourning his loss; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, as a young child, Wayman Tisdale was not interested in playing basketball. The youngest of six children, Wayman preferred music until he learned to dunk a basketball. Wayman was an All-State basketball player at Booker T. Washington High School in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he led his team to a state championship; and

WHEREAS, the highly recruited Tisdale decided to attend the University of Oklahoma in order to be close to home. During his three years as a Sooner, he was a three-time first-team All-American and the school's all-time leader in scoring and rebounds. In 1984 he was a member of the U.S. Olympic basketball team that won a gold medal. Wayman Tisdale was the first athlete in Sooner history to have his jersey number, 23, retired, although he granted Blake Griffin permission to use the number; and

WHEREAS, during his twelve years with the National Basketball Association (NBA), Wayman Tisdale's play was stellar, although the teams he played with were not. Tisdale played with the Indiana Pacers from 1985 to 1989, with the Sacramento Kings from 1989 to 1994, and with the Phoenix Suns from 1994 through 1997; and

WHEREAS, upon his retirement as an athlete, Tisdale returned to his first love, music. Although he played both the keyboard and guitar, he is best known as a bass player. Four of his eight albums were in the top 10 of Billboard Magazine's contemporary jazz chart; and

WHEREAS, in 2002 Wayman Tisdale was inducted into the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, receiving the Legacy Tribute Award. Last month Wayman Tisdale was selected to the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame. His formal induction was scheduled for this November at the Spirit Center in Kansas City, Missouri; and

WHEREAS, those who knew, respected, and loved Wayman Tisdale are aware that his true greatness was not as a basketball player or a musician but as an individual. His boundless optimism, his ever-present smile, and his positive personality are what impressed others even more than his considerable athletic or artistic talents. When struck with cancer which necessitated the amputation of the lower part of his right leg, he responded by creating the Wayman Tisdale Foundation. The Wayman Tisdale Foundation is committed to making a difference in the lives of individuals with cancer and amputees; and

WHEREAS, Wayman Tisdale died Friday morning, May 15, 2009, at the age of 44 years, in St. John's Hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

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

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes Wayman Tisdale's awesome athletic ability, his incredible musical talent, and most importantly, his inspirational character.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate joins the rest of the State of Oklahoma and the entire nation in mourning the loss of this devoted family man and outstanding role model.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Wayman Tisdale's wife, Regina Tisdale, and the Wayman Tisdale Foundation.

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

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Presiding Officer of the Senate