

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, May 26, 2010

ENGROSSED
Senate Concurrent
Resolution No. 49

ENGROSSED SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 49 - 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 and BRANNON of the House.

A Concurrent Resolution recognizing the many contributions of educator Joe Paul Hemphill; mourning his loss; and directing distribution.

1 WHEREAS, Joe Paul Hemphill was born in Monroe, Oklahoma, September 6, 1926,
2 to Joseph Braxton and Bertha (Cagle) Hemphill. In 1942 at the age of 15 years, he tried
3 to join the U.S. Navy. On August 22, 1944, at the age of 17 years and with his father's
4 permission, he succeeded; Joe Paul served in the Navy until he was discharged in 1946;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Joe Paul Hemphill graduated from Monroe School in Monroe,
7 Oklahoma, and from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He received the Alumni

1 Award from Monroe School in 2002 and the Distinguished Alumni Award from
2 Southeastern in 1998; and

3 WHEREAS, Joe Paul Hemphill served on the Board of Directors of the Kiamichi
4 Economic Development District of Oklahoma (KEDDO) for ten years and for 19 years on
5 the Board of Directors of KI BOIS Community Action Foundation. He was a member of
6 Southside Baptist Church in Poteau; and

7 WHEREAS, Joe Paul Hemphill taught at Monroe School then served as Principal of
8 Howe High School from 1990 until 1994. The 1993-1994 Howe yearbook was dedicated to
9 him. Joe Paul was Superintendent at Monroe and Howe Schools. He also served as a
10 member of the Oklahoma Education Association (OEA) for 20 years and on the Higher
11 Education Alumni Council for ten years; and

12 WHEREAS, Joe Paul Hemphill was a 32nd Degree Mason with the McAlester
13 Consistory and a Master Mason as a member of the Howe Masonic Lodge; and

14 WHEREAS, Joe Paul Hemphill was a member of the Poteau Chamber of Commerce
15 for 37 years where he served on the Board of Directors and as Board President. For two
16 years he was Executive Director of the Chamber. In 1983 Joe Paul received the Poteau
17 Chamber of Commerce President's Award. He was named 1984 Poteau Man of the Year;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Joe Paul Hemphill taught at Carl Albert State College. He was also
20 their first Dean, Athletic Director, Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice President
21 for Academic Affairs. He retired in 1988, having served the school for 20 years. After
22 being renovated, the first building on campus was named Hemphill Hall. He received

1 the Distinguished Alumni Award from Carl Albert State College in 2000. He also
2 received the Carl Albert State College Development Foundation Board of Trustees
3 Award. Joe Paul Hemphill was appointed to a nine-year term on the Board of Regents of
4 Oklahoma Colleges in 1991; and

5 WHEREAS, Joe Paul Hemphill was a member of the Poteau Rotary Club for 20
6 years. Joe Paul served on their Board of Directors and also as President. In 1987 he
7 received the Paul Harris Fellow Award from the Rotary Foundation in recognition of his
8 exceptional service; and

9 WHEREAS, Joe Paul Hemphill served his community for 22 years as Poteau City
10 Councilman. Joe Paul served as a Board Member of Poteau Summer Youth Program for
11 ten years and managed the Poteau Summer Youth Program for two years. In 2003 he
12 received the Poteau Daily News Lifetime Contribution Award; and

13 WHEREAS, Joe Paul Hemphill chaired the LeFlore County Democratic Party from
14 1965 until 1967. Joe Paul also served as campaign chair in LeFlore County for
15 Governors Raymond Gary, David Hall, and David Walters. In April 1996 he had his
16 picture taken with First Lady Hillary Clinton; and

17 WHEREAS, Joe Paul Hemphill served for 20 years as chair of the LeFlore County
18 Heart Fund Drive and the Poteau Community Chest. Joe Paul was a member of the
19 LeFlore County Historical Society; and

20 WHEREAS, Joe Paul Hemphill was an enthusiastic basketball player, coach, and
21 fan. Joe Paul was inducted into the Oklahoma Girls Basketball Coaches Association Hall
22 of Fame in 1992; and

UNDERLINED language denotes Amendments to present Statutes.
BOLD FACE CAPITALIZED language denotes Committee Amendments.
~~Strike thru~~ language denotes deletion from present Statutes.

1 WHEREAS, Joe Paul Hemphill died Monday, December 21, 2009, at the age of 83.
2 Services were held on Wednesday, December 23, 2009, at the Bob Lee Kidd Civic Center
3 in Poteau, Oklahoma.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND
5 SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF
6 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

7 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature recognizes the many outstanding
8 contributions of Joe Paul Hemphill, a longtime educator who helped instill a love of
9 learning in the lives of countless young people and probably affected the lives of more
10 students than any other educator in our state's history.

11 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature mourns the loss of Joe Paul Hemphill,
12 uniquely Oklahoman, a man large in stature with even a bigger heart, who truly
13 embodied the values and spirit of this great state.

14 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Joe Paul Hemphill's wife, Wilma;
15 daughter Suanna Rust; and sons Joe, Rodney, and Roger Hemphill.

16 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.