

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Wednesday, May 26, 2010

ENGROSSED  
Senate Concurrent  
Resolution No. 50

ENGROSSED SENATE CONCURRENT 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 and BRANNON of the House.

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

1 WHEREAS, F. L. Holton Jr. was born in Cameron, Oklahoma, on November 10,  
2 1919, the son of F. L. Holton Sr. and Eva Holton. He graduated from Poteau High School  
3 in 1937 and was awarded a degree in Business Administration from Oklahoma A&M  
4 College in 1941; and

5 WHEREAS, a veteran of World War II, F. L. Holton Jr. served four years in the  
6 Army Air Corps. He entered as a private, attended Officer Candidate School at Yale  
7 University, served in a B-17 group, attended contract school at Harvard University, and

1 then served as a contract officer assigned to aircraft plants. He was discharged as a  
2 captain in 1946; and

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

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

18 WHEREAS, in 1954, F. L. Holton Jr. was named to the Board of Directors of  
19 Central National Bank in Poteau. In 1967, he became Vice President; and in 1978, he  
20 was elected Chairman. Since that time, the bank has grown from \$34 million to more  
21 than \$150 million and continually ranks as one of the highest-performing banks in  
22 Oklahoma. In 2004, he was inducted into the Oklahoma Bankers Association's 50-Year

1 Club, denoting individuals who have devoted 50 years or more of their lives to banking  
2 careers; and

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

9 WHEREAS, F. L. Holton Jr. was a charter member of the Board of Regents of Carl  
10 Albert State College, formed in 1971. He was both the oldest and longest-serving regent  
11 in the state. In 1993, F. L. Holton Jr. was inducted into the Carl Albert State College  
12 Hall of Fame. In 1997, his family established the F. L. Holton Endowed Professorship.  
13 The Carl Albert State College Business Center is named in his honor. During his tenure  
14 on the Board of Regents, the school's enrollment grew from 200 students to more than  
15 2,400; and

16 WHEREAS, F. L. Holton Jr. also served for 20 years on the Board of Trustees for  
17 Phillips University, serving as Chairman for four years. He was a charter member of the  
18 Board of Governors for the Oklahoma State University Development Foundation, serving  
19 for 19 years with two terms on their Executive Committee. He also served for 20 years  
20 as a College of Business Associate at Oklahoma State University. F. L. Holton Jr. was  
21 inducted into the Oklahoma State University College of Business Hall of Fame; and in  
22 1990, he was honored with the OSU Alumni Service Award; and

1           WHEREAS, F. L. Holton Jr. was an active member of the First Christian Church of  
2 Poteau. He served as an Elder, Board Chairman and taught Sunday School classes. He  
3 served as Vice President of the Oklahoma Christian Men’s Fellowship and was named  
4 Layman of the Year for Oklahoma Christian Churches; and

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

7           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND  
8 SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF  
9 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

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

13          THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature mourns the loss of this native Oklahoman  
14 whose accomplishments were vital in the development of Eastern Oklahoma.

15          THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to F. L. Holton Jr.’s wife, Genevieve;  
16 daughters, Lynda Lynch and Deborah Gentry; son, Steve; and sister, Lois Blasdel.

17          DIRECT TO CALENDAR.