

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 52nd Legislature (2010)

3 SENATE

4 RESOLUTION 131

By: Corn

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

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

10
11 WHEREAS, Joe Paul Hemphill was born in Monroe, Oklahoma,
12 September 6, 1926, to Joseph Braxton and Bertha (Cagle) Hemphill.
13 In 1942 at the age of 15 years, he tried to join the U.S. Navy. On
14 August 22, 1944, at the age of 17 years and with his father's
15 permission, he succeeded; Joe Paul served in the Navy until he was
16 discharged in 1946; and

17 WHEREAS, Joe Paul Hemphill graduated from Monroe School in
18 Monroe, Oklahoma, and from Southeastern Oklahoma State University.
19 He received the Alumni Award from Monroe School in 2002 and the
20 Distinguished Alumni Award from Southeastern in 1998; and

21 WHEREAS, Joe Paul Hemphill served on the Board of Directors of
22 the Kiamichi Economic Development District of Oklahoma (KEDDO) for
23 ten years and for 19 years on the Board of Directors of KI BOIS
24

1 Community Action Foundation. He was a member of Southside Baptist
2 Church in Poteau; and

3 WHEREAS, Joe Paul Hemphill taught at Monroe School then served
4 as Principal of Howe High School from 1990 until 1994. The 1993-
5 1994 Howe yearbook was dedicated to him. Joe Paul was
6 Superintendent at Monroe and Howe Schools. He also served as a
7 member of the Oklahoma Education Association (OEA) for 20 years and
8 on the Higher Education Alumni Council for ten years; and

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

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

17 WHEREAS, Joe Paul Hemphill taught at Carl Albert State College.
18 He was also their first Dean, Athletic Director, Vice President for
19 Student Affairs and Vice President for Academic Affairs. He retired
20 in 1988, having served the school for 20 years. After being
21 renovated, the first building on campus was named Hemphill Hall. He
22 received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Carl Albert State
23 College in 2000. He also received the Carl Albert State College
24 Development Foundation Board of Trustees Award. Paul Hemphill was

1 appointed to a nine-year term on the Board of Regents of Oklahoma
2 Colleges in 1991; and

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

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

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

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

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

24

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

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION
5 OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

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

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

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

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