

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 SENATE  
4 RESOLUTION 17

By: Newberry

5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution praising the life and career of Paul  
8 Harvey; mourning his loss; and directing  
9 distribution.

10  
11 WHEREAS, Paul Harvey Aurandt was born on September 4, 1918, in  
12 Tulsa, Oklahoma, the son of Harry Harrison Aurandt and Anna Dagmar  
13 Christensen. His father, a police officer, was killed in the line  
14 of duty by four robbers when Paul was three years old, leaving his  
15 mother to bring up Paul and his sister Frances Henrietta. As a  
16 youth Paul used to listen to early radio on a homemade cigar-box  
17 crystal set; and

18 WHEREAS, Paul Harvey first went on the radio in 1933 while in  
19 high school in Tulsa, Oklahoma. A high school English teacher  
20 believed he had a talent for radio and encouraged Paul, who was a  
21 champion orator. Paul went to work for KVOO-AM 1170 radio, playing  
22 the guitar, reading commercials, announcements, and occasionally the  
23 news. Still working for the radio station, he took English and  
24

1 speech classes at the University of Tulsa. For professional reasons  
2 he changed his last name to "Harvey"; and

3 WHEREAS, Paul Harvey moved on to radio stations in Abilene,  
4 Kansas, and at KOMA-AM 1520 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He  
5 eventually moved on as news and special events director at a radio  
6 station in St. Louis, Missouri, which is where he wooed and won his  
7 wife, Lynne "Angel" Cooper; and

8 WHEREAS, Paul Harvey served as the Office of War Information's  
9 news director for Michigan and Indiana in the early 1940s. He also  
10 served in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Paul  
11 received a medical discharge after an injury on an obstacle course;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Paul Harvey News and Comment was first broadcast  
14 nationally in 1951 on ABC radio. At the time he was a newscaster at  
15 WENR-AM in Chicago, Illinois. Paul worked in Chicago's Merchandise  
16 Mart and became friends with the building's owner, Joseph P.  
17 Kennedy. Kennedy, the father of Joe Jr., John F., Robert F., and  
18 Teddy Kennedy, played a major role in winning Harvey a spot on ABC  
19 radio. Paul was a substitute at first until local stations began  
20 requesting him. Later Paul Harvey appeared on television from the  
21 1960s through the 1980s with five-minute segments; and

22 WHEREAS, Paul Harvey began his "The Rest of the Story" in 1976.  
23 The feature was written by his son, Paul Harvey Jr. His son also  
24 wrote "Paul Harvey's For What It's Worth", "Paul Harvey's The Rest

1 of the Story", "More of Paul Harvey's The Rest of the Story", and  
2 "Destiny: From Paul Harvey's the Rest of the Story"; and

3 WHEREAS, Paul Harvey invented or popularized the words  
4 "skyjacker", "Reaganomics", "trendency", "snoopervision", and  
5 "guesstimate". At the peak of his career Harvey had 24 million  
6 listeners on more than 1,200 national radio stations and on 400 more  
7 Armed Forces radio stations around the world. He was a popular  
8 public speaker, and his three-times-a-week syndicated column was  
9 carried by approximately 300 newspapers; and

10 WHEREAS, Paul Harvey was known as the "voice of Middle America"  
11 and the "apostle of Main Street". He described his beliefs as  
12 "political fundamentalism". Paul Harvey refused offers to move to  
13 the East Coast, preferring to stay in touch with Middle America from  
14 his home in Chicago, Illinois; and

15 WHEREAS, Paul Harvey was inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame in  
16 1990; he received the Presidential Medal Of Freedom in 2005; and he  
17 received an honorary degree from Washington University in St. Louis,  
18 Missouri, in 2007. Paul Harvey has been named Salesman of the Year,  
19 Commentator of the Year, Person of the Year, Father of the Year, and  
20 American of the Year. Paul was elected to the National Association  
21 of Broadcasters Radio Hall of Fame, the DeMolay Hall of Fame, and  
22 the Oklahoma Hall of Fame. He received eleven Freedom Foundations  
23 Awards, the Horatio Alger Award, and in 1987 was inducted into the  
24 Oklahoma Association of Broadcaster's Hall of Fame. Paul Harvey

1 also received the Oklahoma State University Henry G. Bennett  
2 Distinguished Service Award; and

3 WHEREAS, Paul Harvey caught a virus that weakened his vocal  
4 cords and temporarily forced him off the air in 2001. He returned  
5 to broadcasting, but his wife of nearly 68 years, Lynne "Angel"  
6 Cooper Harvey, died in May 2008. Paul joined her forever on  
7 February 28, 2009. The 90-year-old broadcaster was with family at a  
8 Phoenix, Arizona, hospital at the time of his death.

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

11 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate praises the life and career of  
12 native Oklahoman Paul Harvey.

13 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate joins the state, nation, and  
14 world in mourning the loss of this outstanding communicator whom  
15 Oklahoma is proud to claim as one of its own.

16 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Paul Harvey Jr.  
17 and the Oklahoma Heritage Association.

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