

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

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

3 SENATE

4 RESOLUTION 58

By: Garrison and Russell

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6
7 AS INTRODUCED

8 A Resolution commending the military career of
9 Colonel Perry Woolridge; and directing distribution.

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11 WHEREAS, Perry Bill Woolridge was born at Roff, Oklahoma, on
12 August 22, 1918. He attended Chilocco Indian School and graduated
13 with the class of 1938. Perry Woolridge also attended Draughan's
14 Business College in Muskogee, Oklahoma, and Blackwood-Davis Business
15 College in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and

16 WHEREAS, Perry Woolridge joined the Army National Guard while a
17 high school student. He was mobilized with the 45th Infantry
18 Division when it was ordered into active federal service. During
19 World War II, he participated in four amphibious landings and eight
20 major campaigns; and

21 WHEREAS, Perry Woolridge, after spending 1945 with the Veterans
22 Administration, joined the Oklahoma Military Department in 1946 and
23 stayed with the Oklahoma Army National Guard until his retirement in
24 1978. He served as a personnel officer until 1961 when he became

1 Executive Officer of the Oklahoma Military Department. In his last
2 assignment as Chief of the Military Support to Civil Authorities
3 Section, he prepared and maintained plans for providing military
4 assistance to civil authorities during emergency situations; and

5 WHEREAS, Colonel Perry Woolridge began his military career as a
6 Private and retired as a Colonel. During his career he graduated
7 from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Fort
8 Leavenworth, Kansas, and the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle
9 Barracks, Pennsylvania. While at the Army War College, Colonel
10 Woolridge authored "An Analysis of the Selected Reserve Forces
11 Systems", a study that made recommendations on how to enable Army
12 National Guard units to achieve and maintain an enduring high level
13 of readiness; and

14 WHEREAS, Colonel Perry Woolridge was awarded the Bronze Star
15 Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, American
16 Campaign Medal, American Defense Service Medal, European-African-
17 Middle Eastern Campaign Medal and eight campaign stars and arrowhead
18 for amphibious assault landing, World War II Victory Medal, Armed
19 Forces Reserve Medal with Hour Glass Device, Combat Infantryman
20 Badge, Oklahoma Meritorious Service Medal, and the Oklahoma Long
21 Service Medal. He received a commendation by the Commanding
22 General, 45th Infantry Division, on August 20, 1947, for outstanding
23 service as Personnel Officer, 279th Infantry; and

24

1 WHEREAS, Colonel Perry Woolridge is affiliated with the Disabled
2 American Veterans (DAV), American Legion, Military Order of World
3 Wars, National Guard Association of the United States, 45th Infantry
4 Division Association, U.S. Civil Defense Council, Oklahoma Civil
5 Defense Directors Association, and the Oklahoma Military Historical
6 Commission; and

7 WHEREAS, Colonel Woolridge is the uncle of the late Nicholas
8 "Coach" Durant, a famous basketball coach in the Poteau, Oklahoma,
9 area.

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

12 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commends the military career of
13 Colonel Perry B. Woolridge, a career that spanned five decades, that
14 included service in both the U.S. Army and the Oklahoma National
15 Guard, that took him from Private to Colonel, and that focused on
16 defending our state and nation whether it was as a combat
17 infantryman in World War II or a planner preparing to assist civil
18 authorities during an emergency.

19 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Colonel Perry
20 B. Woolridge and his wife Mayselle.

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