

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 54th Legislature (2014)

3 SENATE  
4 RESOLUTION 90

By: Bingman

5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution expressing gratitude to Senator Charles  
8 Ford for his efforts to create a collection of  
9 artwork telling the story of Oklahoma's history and  
those who played key roles in shaping the state's  
identity; and directing distribution.

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12 WHEREAS, for twenty-four years Charles Ford served the citizens  
13 of District 25 in the Oklahoma State Senate and previously served  
14 fourteen years in the House of Representatives; and

15 WHEREAS, in addition to fulfilling his legislative  
16 responsibilities, Senator Ford became an advocate for the  
17 restoration and historic preservation of the Capitol Building,  
18 including the Senate Chamber which was completed in 1994, as well as  
19 other restoration projects throughout the building; and

20 WHEREAS, in 1997, Charles Ford, noticing the lack of artwork in  
21 the Senate lounge, commissioned an Oklahoma artist to paint a  
22 historic event from his district. He chose a vignette out of  
23 Washington Irving's book "Tour on the Prairies." The painting was  
24 dedicated in 1998; and

1       WHEREAS, Charles Ford created a 501(c)(3) foundation, the  
2 Oklahoma State Senate Preservation Fund Inc., and raised additional  
3 funds to commission Oklahoma artists to create paintings and  
4 sculptures depicting important events, places and individuals in  
5 Oklahoma history; and

6       WHEREAS, in 2003, the Senate Art Collection was featured in the  
7 book "Art Treasures of the Oklahoma State Capitol." By May of 2014,  
8 the Senate Preservation Fund, Inc., had provided funding for more  
9 than 150 works of art which are now located throughout the Capitol,  
10 funded through private donations. Pieces from the collection were  
11 displayed in an exhibition at Tulsa's Gilcrease Museum in 2009; and  
12 during the 2014 interim, several pieces will be on loan to the  
13 Oklahoma State University Museum of Art for an exhibition entitled  
14 Framing History: Highlights from the Oklahoma State Capitol Senate  
15 Collection; and

16       WHEREAS, Senator Charles Ford was term-limited in 2004, but  
17 continued his work with the Senate Preservation Fund, Inc., and  
18 assisted in continued historical restoration efforts in the Capitol.  
19 Through the efforts of Charles Ford, the Oklahoma State Senate  
20 Preservation Fund Inc., numerous contributors and talented Oklahoma  
21 artists, the Capitol is now home to an outstanding art collection  
22 which has helped bring Oklahoma history to life for countless  
23 visitors, and will continue to do so for generations to come.

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1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION  
2 OF THE 54TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

3 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate, on behalf of all citizens of  
4 this state, expresses its gratitude to Senator Charles Ford,  
5 President and founder of the Oklahoma State Senate Historical  
6 Preservation Fund, Inc.

7 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Senator Charles  
8 Ford.

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