

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE
RESOLUTION 13

By: Jett

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution recognizing businessman, banker, and accomplished journalist Russell M. Perry; and praising his significant contributions to the state.

WHEREAS, Russell M. Perry is a highly accomplished businessman, banker, community leader, former state official, publisher, broadcaster, and journalist; and

WHEREAS, born in 1939 during the Jim Crow era of segregation in Oklahoma City and homeless at the age of 12, Russell M. Perry surmounted a great host of unjust odds to live a life of extraordinary achievement and leadership in our state; and

WHEREAS, Russell M. Perry devoted his journalistic passion to serving the African American community, founding The Black Chronicle, the largest weekly newspaper in Oklahoma, in 1979; working to restore black commerce in Oklahoma City; and creating opportunity and access for his community and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Russell M. Perry is the founder and owner of the media powerhouse Perry Publishing & Broadcasting, which today is the largest independent radio group in Oklahoma, the largest African

1 American broadcasting company in the nation, and the network station
2 that brought urban radio to Oklahoma City; and

3 WHEREAS, Russell M. Perry is a dedicated civic leader who has
4 served on the Oklahoma Development Finance Authority, the Oklahoma
5 Industrial Finance Authority, and the Oklahoma City Urban Renewal
6 Authority, as well as numerous business and banking boards and
7 councils; and

8 WHEREAS, Russell M. Perry has been recognized for his industry
9 achievements with inductions into the Oklahoma Journalism Hall of
10 Fame, the Oklahoma Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame, the
11 American Urban Radio Network Broadcasters Hall of Fame, and the
12 Oklahoma Hall of Fame; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1999, Governor Frank Keating nominated Russell M.
14 Perry to serve as the Oklahoma Secretary of Commerce, making Perry
15 the first African American in the state's history to serve in this
16 prestigious position.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION
18 OF THE 60TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

19 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes the remarkable life of
20 Russell M. Perry, his significant contributions to the social and
21 economic development of Oklahoma, and his enduring legacy of service
22 to his community and his state.

23
24 60-1-1989

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