

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 SENATE
4 RESOLUTION 16

By: Jolley

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution honoring the life and career of State
8 Senator Phil Watson; mourning his loss; and directing
9 distribution.

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11 WHEREAS, Thomas Philip "Phil" Watson was born on August 31,
12 1933, in Nashville, Arkansas, to Jordan Franklin and Frieda (Pryor)
13 Watson. He enlisted in the United States Air Force and was a
14 control tower operator during the Korean Conflict. Phil attended
15 Harding College and married Jacqueline Messick, and they became the
16 parents of a daughter, Angela Joyce. The family moved to Oklahoma
17 where he worked for Oklahoma Christian College. In September of
18 1963, Jackie and Angie died as the result of a tragic accident.
19 Phil later married Mary Alice Parks. The couple, married just over
20 fifty-one years, had two daughters, Mary Rebecca and Phylis Ann; and

21 WHEREAS, after serving several years as minister of the Edmond
22 Church of Christ, Phil Watson was elected to the Oklahoma State
23 Senate in 1972, representing District 41 in Edmond. He remained in
24 the Senate for 15 years and served as Minority Leader in the 38th

1 Legislature. In 1987, Governor Henry Bellmon appointed him Director
2 of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, where he served more
3 than three years; during that time, he visited each of the agency's
4 77 county offices. Phil later worked for the Rural Development
5 Cooperative of the USDA, retiring in 1998; and

6 WHEREAS, Phil continued his life of service after his
7 retirement, doing mission work in Zambia, Africa, working to improve
8 education and serving as Chairman of the Board for the Zambia
9 Mission; his wife Mary worked as secretary, bookkeeper, and
10 correspondent for the organization; and

11 WHEREAS, Phil Watson passed from this life on March 1, 2015. He
12 was preceded in death by his parents; first wife, Jackie; daughter,
13 Angie; six brothers; and two sisters. He is survived by his wife,
14 Mary; daughter, Mary Rebecca "Becky" Walderback and husband, Scott;
15 daughter, Phylis Frye and husband, Jonathan; grandsons, William
16 Walderback, Hamilton Frye, Harrison Frye, and Robert Walderback; as
17 well as many nieces, nephews, and friends.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION
19 OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

20 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commends the life and service of
21 Senator Phil Watson and hails his contributions to the State of
22 Oklahoma.

23 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate joins his family, friends and
24 former constituents in mourning the loss of Senator Phil Watson.

1 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Senator Phil
2 Watson's wife, Mary Watson.

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