Resolution

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 130

By: Russell, Coffee, Adelson, Aldridge, Anderson, Ballenger, Barrington, Bass, Bingman, Branan, Brogdon, Brown, Burrage, Coates, Corn, Crain, Crutchfield, Easley, Eason McIntyre, Ellis, Ford, Garrison, Gumm, Halligan, Ivester, Johnson (Constance), Johnson (Mike), Jolley, Justice, Lamb, Laster, Leftwich, Lerblance, Marlatt, Mazzei, Myers, Newberry, Nichols, Paddack, Reynolds, Rice, Schulz, Sparks, Stanislawski, Sweeden, Sykes, Wilson and Wyrick

A Resolution deploring the ten-year rule as it applies to family members of veterans who are totally and permanently disabled from service-related injuries; urging Congress to reduce the ten-year rule to be more fair to the family members of these veterans; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, it is not that unusual to learn from the media of a veteran who dies less than ten years after being declared 100% permanently and totally disabled from service-related injuries. If the veteran died as the result of war injuries, his or her family members would qualify for survivor's dependency and indemnity

compensation. However, if the veteran dies of other causes, the family is left totally without recourse; and

WHEREAS, many veterans do not apply for permanent disability until much later in life and do not survive the next ten years to make their family members eligible for survivor's dependency and indemnity compensation. The most severely disabled veterans are often the quickest to die, and the family members suffer additional loss as a result; and

WHEREAS, according to the Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs, there are about 6,300 veterans in Oklahoma who are 100% disabled from service-related causes. However, the state can do very little about this situation since this is a federal law. To many this federal law is unfair. The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) agrees. Their 2009-2010 Veterans Service Resolution 636 is to "Reduce the Ten-Year Rule for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate deplores the federal ten-year rule as unfair as it applies to the family members of veterans who are totally and permanently disabled from service-related injuries.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate strongly urges Congress to reduce the ten-year rule to be more fair to the family members of these worthy veterans.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation.

Adopted by the Senate the 21st day of May, 2010.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Secretary of State this 24th **day of** May, **20** 10,

at 10:28 **o'clock** A **M.**

By: M. Susan Savage