Resolution

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 16

By: Jolley, Allen, Anderson, Barrington, Bass, Bice, Bingman, Boggs, Brecheen, Brinkley, Brooks, Brown, Crain, Dahm, David, Fields, Floyd, Ford, Fry, Garrison, Griffin, Halligan, Holt, Jech, Justice, Loveless, Marlatt, Mazzei, Newberry, Paddack, Pittman, Quinn, Schulz, Sharp, Shaw, Shortey, Silk, Simpson, Smalley, Sparks, Standridge, Stanislawski, Sykes, Thompson, Treat, Wyrick and Yen

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

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

WHEREAS, after serving several years as minister of the Edmond Church of Christ, Phil Watson was elected to the Oklahoma State Senate in 1972, representing District 41 in Edmond. He remained in the Senate for 15 years and served as Minority Leader in the 38th Legislature. In 1987, Governor Henry Bellmon appointed him Director of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, where he served more

than three years; during that time, he visited each of the agency's 77 county offices. Phil later worked for the Rural Development Cooperative of the USDA, retiring in 1998; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adopted by the Senate the 3rd day of March, 2015.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 4th day of March, 20 15, at 1:47 o'clock P. M.

By: Chris Benge