

Resolution

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 36

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

A Resolution recognizing Senator E. Melvin Porter;
commending his accomplishments and legacy as
Oklahoma's first African American State Senator; and
directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Senator E. Melvin Porter was born in Okmulgee on May
22, 1930, and served his country in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, in 1956 Senator Porter became part of the first class
at the Vanderbilt University Law School in Tennessee to include
African American students; and

WHEREAS, in 1961 Senator Porter became President of the Oklahoma
City chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of
Colored People, during a critical period in our nation's civil
rights history; and

WHEREAS, redistricting in 1964 reflected change in population for the first time, thus creating new Senate seats; and

WHEREAS, Senator Porter, who had previously run for the House in 1962 as a Republican, was elected as a Democrat to represent Senate District 48 on November 3, 1964, winning 85 percent of the vote; and

WHEREAS, Senator Porter was sworn in on November 18, 1964, and in the 1965 Legislative Session served as the first African American member of the Oklahoma Senate; and

WHEREAS, Senator Porter spent his first 18 years in the Oklahoma Senate as its sole African American member; and since that time, nine more African American Oklahomans have become members of the Senate, including from Senate District 48, Senators Vicki Miles-LaGrange, Angela Z. Monson, Constance N. Johnson, and Anastasia A. Pittman. Senators Bernard McIntyre, Maxine Horner, Judy Eason McIntyre, Jabar Shumate, and Kevin Matthews have served in District 11; and

WHEREAS, Senator Porter spent 22 years in the Oklahoma Senate, serving from 1964 to 1986.

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

THAT upon the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Senator E. Melvin Porter becoming its first African American member, the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes Senator Porter's trailblazing accomplishments and commends his work in public service.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Senator E. Melvin Porter and his family.

Adopted by the Senate the 13th day of May, 2015.


Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this 14th
day of May, 20 15, at 9:58 o'clock A. M.
By: Chris Benz