

1 ENGROSSED SENATE
2 CONCURRENT
3 RESOLUTION NO. 50

By: Corn, Adelson, Aldridge,
Anderson, Ballenger,
Barrington, Bass, Bingman,
Branan, Brogdon, Brown,
Burrage, Coates, Coffee,
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,
Russell, Schulz, Sparks,
Stanislawski, Sweeden,
Sykes, Wilson and Wyrick of
the Senate

12 and

13 Brannon of the House

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16 A Concurrent Resolution recognizing the legendary
17 status of F. L. Holton Jr.; mourning his loss; and
18 directing distribution.

19 WHEREAS, F. L. Holton Jr. was born in Cameron, Oklahoma, on
20 November 10, 1919, the son of F. L. Holton Sr. and Eva Holton. He
21 graduated from Poteau High School in 1937 and was awarded a degree
22 in Business Administration from Oklahoma A&M College in 1941; and

23 WHEREAS, a veteran of World War II, F. L. Holton Jr. served four
24 years in the Army Air Corps. He entered as a private, attended

1 Officer Candidate School at Yale University, served in a B-17 group,
2 attended contract school at Harvard University, and then served as a
3 contract officer assigned to aircraft plants. He was discharged as
4 a captain in 1946; and

5 WHEREAS, after the war F. L. Holton Jr. returned to Poteau,
6 Oklahoma, and joined his father in expanding the family businesses,
7 which would include a supermarket, hardware and furniture store,
8 department store, retail feed store, and automobile dealerships. As
9 manager of the Holton General Merchandise store, he expanded the
10 retail operation from a 3,500 square-foot general merchandise store
11 to 45,000 square feet in four locations. At one time, Holton-owned
12 businesses accounted for ten percent of the total sales tax
13 collected in LeFlore County. He served as President of Holton
14 Stores; and

15 WHEREAS, F. L. Holton Jr. operated a large cow-calf operation
16 and pioneered the development of the poultry industry in Eastern
17 Oklahoma. By 1952, he was producing two million broilers and 40,000
18 turkeys each year. His cow-calf operation was located on his 10,000
19 acre ranch northeast of Poteau, Oklahoma. In 1956, F. L. founded
20 Holton Mills to manufacture feed for the cattle and chicken
21 industries. He served as President of Holton Cattle Company, and
22 his agricultural endeavors were located in three counties: Ellis
23 and LeFlore in Oklahoma and Hansford County in Texas; and

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1 WHEREAS, in 1954, F. L. Holton Jr. was named to the Board of
2 Directors of Central National Bank in Poteau. In 1967, he became
3 Vice President; and in 1978, he was elected Chairman. Since that
4 time, the bank has grown from \$34 million to more than \$150 million
5 and continually ranks as one of the highest-performing banks in
6 Oklahoma. In 2004, he was inducted into the Oklahoma Bankers
7 Association's 50-Year Club, denoting individuals who have devoted 50
8 years or more of their lives to banking careers; and

9 WHEREAS, F. L. Holton Jr. served in leadership positions in the
10 Poteau Rotary Club, the Poteau Chamber of Commerce, the Poteau
11 Industrial Authority, the United Fund, and the Eastern Oklahoma
12 Historical Society. His knowledge about LeFlore County's history
13 was encyclopedic. In 1990, he was selected for the Rotary
14 International Paul Harris Award; and in 1992, he was the first
15 recipient of the Poteau Lifetime Contribution Award; and

16 WHEREAS, F. L. Holton Jr. was a charter member of the Board of
17 Regents of Carl Albert State College, formed in 1971. He was both
18 the oldest and longest-serving regent in the state. In 1993, F. L.
19 Holton Jr. was inducted into the Carl Albert State College Hall of
20 Fame. In 1997, his family established the F. L. Holton Endowed
21 Professorship. The Carl Albert State College Business Center is
22 named in his honor. During his tenure on the Board of Regents, the
23 school's enrollment grew from 200 students to more than 2,400; and
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1 WHEREAS, F. L. Holton Jr. also served for 20 years on the Board
2 of Trustees for Phillips University, serving as Chairman for four
3 years. He was a charter member of the Board of Governors for the
4 Oklahoma State University Development Foundation, serving for 19
5 years with two terms on their Executive Committee. He also served
6 for 20 years as a College of Business Associate at Oklahoma State
7 University. F. L. Holton Jr. was inducted into the Oklahoma State
8 University College of Business Hall of Fame; and in 1990, he was
9 honored with the OSU Alumni Service Award; and

10 WHEREAS, F. L. Holton Jr. was an active member of the First
11 Christian Church of Poteau. He served as an Elder, Board Chairman
12 and taught Sunday School classes. He served as Vice President of
13 the Oklahoma Christian Men's Fellowship and was named Layman of the
14 Year for Oklahoma Christian Churches; and

15 WHEREAS, F. L. Holton Jr. died at his home in Poteau, Oklahoma,
16 on Sunday, November 15, 2009, at the age of 90 years.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION
18 OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
19 CONCURRING THEREIN:

20 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature recognizes the late F. L.
21 Holton Jr. for his philanthropy, business sense, and civic
22 involvement that made him a legend in Eastern Oklahoma.

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1 THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature mourns the loss of this
2 native Oklahoman whose accomplishments were vital in the development
3 of Eastern Oklahoma.

4 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to F. L. Holton
5 Jr.'s wife, Genevieve; daughters, Lynda Lynch and Deborah Gentry;
6 son, Steve; and sister, Lois Blasdel.

7 Adopted by the Senate the 12th day of April, 2010.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

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Adopted by the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____,
2010.

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Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

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