

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1831

A RESOLUTION in memory of Robert V. Talkington.

WHEREAS, Robert V. Talkington, 81, of Iola, passed away December 26, 2010. A former Kansas legislator, he served in the Senate from 1973 to 1988 and the House of Representatives from 1969 to 1972; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Talkington was born August 23, 1929, near Patrick, Texas, to William H. and Nannie Patrick Talkington. Mr. Talkington graduated from Wilmer-Hutchens High School, near Dallas, Texas. He attended Tyler Junior College, Tyler, Texas, on a football scholarship, and received an associates degree in 1949. He transferred to the University of Kansas, on football and baseball scholarships, where he lettered in both sports and received a bachelor's degree in education in 1951. He earned his juris doctor from the University of Kansas in 1954; and

WHEREAS, In his 15 years in the Kansas Senate, this big man with a big heart was well known as an effective lawmaker and leader, but was equally renowned for his raucous sense of humor and love for practical jokes. Virtually everyone knew him as "Talk," and he fostered warm, personal relationships with legislators, staff and lobbyists alike. He was generous and thoughtful to those with whom he served. "Talk" served as vice-president of the Senate from 1977 to 1981, majority leader from 1981 to 1985, and Senate president from 1985 to 1989. He was a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Senate Ways and Means Committee. While in the House of Representatives, Mr. Talkington was vice-chairman of the Legislative Services and Facilities Committee, and a member of the House Judiciary Committee, the House Ways and Means Committee, the House Roads and Highways Committee and the House State Parks and Memorials Committee. He was a member of the Capitol Dome Commission which issued a request for submission of sculpture designs to be considered for the top of the dome. The committee members reviewed the submissions and ultimately selected the regal and elegant design of the Kansas Indian statue, Ad Astra, that graces the dome today. "Talk" also left his mark through his dedicated efforts in defining the budgets for the Kansas Regents Universities, the state's transportation network and the state's judicial system; and

WHEREAS, In his private life, Mr. Talkington was an accomplished lawyer, serving as a private attorney in Iola, the county attorney for Allen County, the city attorney for Moran, the city attorney for Gas, and an attorney for Allen County Hospital and Allen County Community College; held numerous leadership posts, serving as a member of the Kansas Board of Regents from 1996 to 1999, including as its chairman from 1997 to 1998, and two terms on the Kansas Turnpike Authority, 1977 to 1985 and 1989 to 1993; and contributed to the University of Kansas, serving on its Greater University Fund, on its board of governors for the School of Law, and as a member of the Williams Educational Fund and Jayhawks for Higher Education; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Talkington has been further recognized for his commitment to public service. In 2002, the U.S. Highway 169 in Allen County was designated the "Senator Robert V. Talkington Highway" in recognition of his years of service to Kansas. In 2005, the Kansas Bar Association honored him with the Distinguished Government Service Award. In 1998, Tyler Junior College honored him with the Outstanding Public Service Award. In 2009, he was inducted into the Tyler Junior College Sports Circle of Honor for his outstanding achievements in athletics, professional activities and community service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Talkington's marriage to Donna Schmaus spanned 58 years; she died in 2009. They were blessed with five children, Jill, Jacki, Lisa, Jim, and Tom, two children who died in infancy, Jeanne and Donald, and 11 grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Talkington was a great man and a great Jayhawk. He will be remembered for his many significant contributions to the legal profession and his dedicated service to the communities of Iola, Allen county and the state of Kansas, his love of his family; these are truly his legacy: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Robert V. Talkington for the loss of their father and grandfather and gratefully acknowledge the years of public service "Talk" gave to his state and community; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide 20 enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Morris to provide to "Talk's" extended family.

Senate Resolution No. 1831 was sponsored by Senators Jeff King and Stephen Morris.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the SENATE, and was adopted by that body

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*President of the Senate.*

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*Secretary of the Senate.*