

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1858

A RESOLUTION honoring legislative spouses.

WHEREAS, Early newspaper clippings reveal that legislative wives met regularly for luncheon and a program as early as 1945, providing friendship and a social activity for those women who accompanied their husbands to Topeka for the legislative session; and

WHEREAS, No further records exist until the legislative wives group was formally organized in 1955, the start of a 50 year tradition of friendship and service, caring and sharing, prayer and inspiration, and 50 years of supporting our legislative family, with the election of Mrs. Paul Wunsch as president for a two-year term; and

WHEREAS, Also in 1955, based on a suggestion from Mrs. C.R. Mong and her friend, Mrs. Dana Dawson, the tradition of a weekly prayer group began, providing a spiritual support for the wives of legislators, and in 1959, the legislature designated a 5th floor room in the Capitol to the group for "meditation"; and

WHEREAS, The **Capitol Cookbook**, an instant collector's item compiled and printed by the legislative wives from 1986-1992, which included recipes from elected officials, Kansas trivia and a collection of pen and ink drawings by Kansas artists, required a third printing to meet the demand; and those proceeds purchased the silver service, crystal glassware and china with a gold Kansas seal used for state dinners at Cedar Crest, the governor's residence; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, in recognition of the fact that legislative wives was no longer a completely accurate or inclusive title, the group, under the leadership of Mrs. Al Lane, wife of the representative from Mission Hills, officially changed its name to "legislative spouses" and continues today to attempt to bring legislative husbands into active participation; and

WHEREAS, In 1997-98, at the urging of then-president Barb Morris, wife of Senator Steve Morris of Hugoton, the group moved decisively toward more philanthropic efforts, making significant contributions to the Topeka Ronald McDonald House, Midland Hospice and the Marian Medical and Dental Clinics; and legislative spouses continue its charitable fundraising efforts today through the sale of pins of the Kansas state seal, coordinated by Mrs. Morris: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That the legislative spouses filled a key role in its early days of bringing together lawmakers' wives for support, spiritual growth and socializing; have adapted to the dynamics of the times to embrace all legislative spouses; and have broadened its goals to include more educational programs and activities with a focus on charitable giving. In doing so, the legislative spouses continue to be relevant and necessary and deserving of honor in this, its 50th anniversary year. Thank you for the love and support you give your own legislator and for the sacrifices you have made for your spouse who serves in the Kansas Senate or House of Representatives. With this resolution we salute the officers and the membership of the Kansas legislative spouses of today and those who have served in the past; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate provide 30 enrolled copies of this resolution to Willynda Holmes, wife of Representative Carl D. Holmes, the 2005-2006 president of the Kansas legislative spouses.

Senate Resolution No. 1858 was sponsored by Senators Morris, Allen, Apple, Barnett, Barone, Betts, Brownlee, Bruce, Brungardt, Donovan, Emler, Francisco, Gilstrap, Goodwin, Haley, Hensley, Huelskamp, Jordan, Journey, Kelly, Lee, McGinn, O'Connor, Ostmeyer, Palmer, Petersen, Pine, Pyle, Reitz, D. Schmidt, V. Schmidt, Schodorf, Steineger, Taddiken, Teichman, Umbarger, Vratil, Wagle, Wilson and Wysong.

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

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.