

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6034

A RESOLUTION recognizing, honoring and commemorating the life and service of Representative Robert Tomlinson.

WHEREAS, Today we recognize and honor the life and service of our late colleague Representative Robert Tomlinson, familiarly known as Bob Tomlinson, a dedicated educator, legislator and public servant whose long, distinguished and diverse career reflected a lifelong commitment to the people of Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Bob was born on May 6, 1957, in Lincoln, Nebraska, to George and Charlotte Tomlinson; and

WHEREAS, Following his undergraduate studies in education at the University of Kansas, Bob earned master's degrees in education from Baker University, along with professional certifications in special education and school administration; and

WHEREAS, Bob devoted nearly two decades to education as a social studies teacher and counselor in the Shawnee Mission School District's Alternative Education Program at Horizons High School from 1985 through 2003, serving and mentoring some of Kansas' most at-risk students and helping guide them toward productive futures; and

WHEREAS, On August 9, 1986, Bob married Carole Blattman, and together they raised two sons, Phillip and Christopher; and

WHEREAS, Bob began his public service career as an intern for United States Senator Bob Dole and Kansas State Senator Anthony Hensley, gaining early experience in legislative process and public policy; and

WHEREAS, Guided by a belief that effective state leadership must be rooted in local accountability and care for one's community, Bob served on the Roeland Park City Council from 1989 through 1993, where he developed the people-centered philosophy that defined his career; and

WHEREAS, Bob represented the people of the 24th District in the Kansas House of Representatives from 1993 through 2003, where he was known for civility, integrity and strong advocacy for his constituents, including support for infrastructure and special education services for Kansas families; and

WHEREAS, Bob believed in putting people first and politics second and worked across party lines whenever necessary to help Kansans, embracing bipartisanship and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, After leaving the Legislature, Bob continued serving Kansas as Assistant Commissioner of Insurance from 2003 through 2012 and then transitioned to leadership roles within the Department of Administration until his retirement in 2018; and

WHEREAS, Across four decades of continuous service in municipal, legislative and executive roles, Bob exemplified civil discourse, steady leadership and a genuine respect for those he served; and

WHEREAS, Beyond his public accomplishments, Bob cherished his family and instilled in his loved ones the values of curiosity, civic engagement and perseverance. Of all his titles, Bob cherished most those bestowed by his family: Husband to Carole; father to Phillip and Christopher; father-in-law to Megan; and grandfather to Audrey; and

WHEREAS, Robert Tomlinson passed away on February 11, 2025, in Leavenworth, Kansas, leaving a legacy of service, mentorship and devotion to family: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas: That we recognize, honor and commemorate the life and service of Representative Robert Tomlinson and celebrate his lasting contributions to Kansans.

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

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.