

House Resolution No. 6012

By Representative Sloan

3-2

1 A RESOLUTION in memory of Robert V. Talkington.

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

6 WHEREAS, Mr. Talkington was born August 23, 1929, near
7 Patrick, Texas, to William H. and Nannie Patrick Talkington. Mr.
8 Talkington graduated from Wilmer-Hutchens High School, near Dallas,
9 Texas. He attended Tyler Junior College, Tyler, Texas, on a football
10 scholarship, and received an associates degree in 1949. He transferred to
11 the University of Kansas, on football and baseball scholarships, where he
12 lettered in both sports and received a bachelor's degree in education in
13 1951. He earned his juris doctor from the University of Kansas in 1954;
14 and

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

36 WHEREAS, In his private life, Mr. Talkington was an

1 accomplished lawyer, serving as a private attorney in Iola, the county
2 attorney for Allen County, the city attorney for Moran, the city attorney
3 for Gas, and an attorney for Allen County Hospital and Allen County
4 Community College; held numerous leadership posts, serving as a
5 member of the Kansas Board of Regents from 1996 to 1999, including as
6 its chairman from 1977 to 1998, and two terms on the Kansas Turnpike
7 Authority, 1997 to 1985 and 1989 to 1993; and contributed to the
8 University of Kansas, serving on its Greater University Fund, on its board
9 of governors for the School of Law, and as a member of the Williams
10 Educational Fund and Jayhawks for Higher Education; and

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

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

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

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

34 *Be it further resolved:* That the Chief Clerk of the House of
35 Representatives provide 20 enrolled copies of this resolution to
36 Representative Sloan to provide to "Talk's" extended family.