

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1722

A RESOLUTION recognizing Dr. Susan K. Peterson Thomas for her many years of service and dedication to the State of Kansas and Kansas State University.

WHEREAS, Susan K. Peterson began her distinguished state service with Kansas State University on August 2, 1989, serving the institution for 33 years, 8 months and 6 days; and

WHEREAS, As chief government relations officer and assistant to the president, Sue, as she is fondly called, had direct responsibility for all university liaison activities with the state and federal legislature until her retirement on April 7, 2023. She also served as an instructor in the political science department since 1992, teaching Kansas politics and government to over 1,000 students; and

WHEREAS, The daughter of a dairy farmer and former Mayor of Abilene, Sue brought her rural and political roots to her beloved alma mater and received a Bachelor of Science degree in political science and history and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from Kansas State University. Sue also earned a Master of Public Administration from the University of Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Sue began her service to the State of Kansas in 1978, later on working for Mike Hayden during his political career as Majority Leader and Speaker of the House of Representatives and Governor of Kansas. She also served on the transition teams for Governors Hayden and Sam Brownback; and

WHEREAS, Sue was instrumental in securing state funding to completely renovate Farrell Library and add 153,000 square feet of new space to the library on Kansas State's Manhattan campus; and

WHEREAS, Sue coordinated the successful legislative effort to merge the Kansas College of Technology in Salina into Kansas State University, forming the Kansas State Salina campus; and

WHEREAS, Sue led the effort to secure state and federal funding for the construction and equipment of Pat Roberts Hall, the facility that houses Kansas State's Biosecurity Research Institute; and

WHEREAS, Sue worked tirelessly to pass several pieces of legislation that were instrumental in the state's effort to land the United States Department of Agriculture's National Bio and Agro Defense Facility (NBAF), adjacent to Kansas State's campus in Manhattan; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her distinguished career, Sue has been recognized for her work on national, state and local levels, including the prestigious Marvin D. "Swede" Johnson Achievement Award, the Flinchbaugh Family Wildcat Pride Award and the Career Excellence Award from the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities' Council on Governmental Affairs: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we recognize Dr. Susan K. Peterson Thomas for her many years of service and dedication to the State of Kansas and Kansas State University; and

*Be it further resolved:* That we wish her all the best during her well-deserved retirement; and

*Be it further resolved:* That, because long-standing public servants are essential to government, the State of Kansas appreciates and celebrates Sue as a dedicated employee as well as the work she completed for the State of Kansas; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send three enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Reddi.

Senate Resolution No. 1722 was sponsored by Senators Reddi, Alley, Baumgardner, Billinger, Blasi, Bowers, Claeys, Corson, Dietrich, Doll, Fagg, Francisco, Haley, Holscher, Kerschen, Longbine, Masterson, McGinn, O'Shea, Petersen, Pettey, Ryckman, Shallenburger, Sykes, Tyson and Wilborn.

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.*