

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1770

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending Senator Ulysses Lee "Rip" Gooch.

WHEREAS, Senator Gooch of Wichita, one of our most respected and beloved senators of the Kansas Legislature, will be 90 years old on September 13. Senator Gooch was elected to the Kansas Senate in 1993. His committee assignments have included service as ranking minority member of the Federal and State Affairs and Transportation Committees plus membership on the Elections and Local Government, Administrative Rules and Regulations, Local Government, Commerce, Economic Development and Governmental Organization Committees. He also served on the Joint Committee on Rules and Regulations and the Joint Committee on Economic Development; and

WHEREAS, Senator Gooch was previously involved in public service by serving on the Wichita City Council from 1989 to 1993, including two years as Vice-Mayor; and

WHEREAS, Senator Gooch was involved with the aviation industry for 55 years commencing with three years in the United States Armed Forces. He has more than 18,000 flight hours. For 17 years, he operated his own aviation company, a fixed-base operation on Rawdon Field, now a part of Raytheon's Wichita facility. His business, Aero Services, offered short-term plane rental, aircraft sales and service, tie-down and hangar rental and contracted with the federal government to provide military airlift services and helicopter roto-hub overhauls. For 20 additional years, he continued to freelance as a flight instructor, flight examiner and charter pilot. Senator Gooch is a member of the Kansas Aviation Hall of Fame, and in 2001, he was one of the initial inductees into the Black Aviation Hall of Fame. Additionally, he has a lengthy association with the Tuskegee Airmen organization. He served four years as a consultant for Raytheon Aircraft Manufacturing; and

WHEREAS, Senator Gooch was instrumental in the formation of the International Black Aerospace Council, an umbrella organization of five major black aviation organizations. He has served on the Aviation Advisory Committee of the Kansas Department of Transportation, the Air Museum Task Force and the Wichita Airport Authority, and he is a member of the Kansas Museum Aviation Board; and

WHEREAS, Senator Gooch was born in Ripley, Tennessee, and graduated from Ripley's Lauderdale High School. He also attended Tennessee A and I University, and in 2003, he was honored by his hometown and namesake by being awarded the city's Outstanding Citizen Award and being given the Key to the City. Senator Gooch was also awarded the 2012 Trailblazers Award from the Kansas African American Museum in Wichita, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Senator Gooch was a loving and devoted husband to his wife, Dora Augusta Gooch, for 48 years. She is now deceased, as is his daughter, Camellia, and son, Kerry, who was his close friend and flying mate. He has another daughter, Bonita, a grandson, Kerry Jr., and two granddaughters, Dorian and Lauren: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we congratulate and commend Senator Gooch for his devotion to public service, his success in the aviation industry and his zeal for living as he looks forward to his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send two enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Haley and two enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Faust-Goudeau.

Senate Resolution No. 1770 was sponsored by Senators David Haley and Oletha Faust-Goudeau.

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.*