

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1807

A RESOLUTION in memory of Bill Wisdom.

WHEREAS, Bill Wisdom, 71, of Kansas City died January 21, 2004. A former Kansas legislator, he served the 31st district in the House of Representatives from 1975-1992 and the 6th district in the Senate from 1993-1996; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wisdom was born April 11, 1932, in Cottonwood, Oklahoma, where he was affectionately known as “Billie Joe” Wisdom. He graduated from Limestone Gap High School and earned an Associate Degree from Kansas City Community College; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wisdom was employed for 35 years in the automobile manufacturing industry, first at Ford and later at General Motors, where he became a Process Engineer Supervisor. He was a proud member of the United Auto Workers Union even after he went into management; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wisdom is remembered for his unwavering support for the working men and women of Kansas, and for their right to organize and collectively bargain, and for their right to a safe workplace and fair wages; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wisdom is also remembered for his unyielding commitment to improving the quality of public education in Kansas, particularly for children and youth with special needs. He was a champion for our fellow Kansans with mental and physical disabilities; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wisdom was an environmentalist and avid outdoorsman who always enjoyed the companionship of his friends on hunting trips to various areas of Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wisdom was recognized by his many legislative colleagues both in the House and Senate, and on both sides of the aisle, as a capable and caring legislator who served on numerous legislative committees throughout his tenure, most notably as vice-chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations. He was also known by his colleagues as a man of his word; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wisdom was actively involved in many community-based organizations in Wyandotte County, including the Wyandotte County Parks and Recreation Board, Citizen’s Advisory Commission of Kansas City, Kansas, and Argentine Community Action; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wisdom was also active in numerous civic and service organizations, including the Shrine, Argentine Activity Association, Maple Hill Optimist Club and the Turner Lions Club; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wisdom was a longtime member of the United Church of the Good Shepherd; and

WHEREAS, Senator Wisdom was proud of his upbringing as a lifelong member of the Democratic Party, and belonged to the South Side Democratic Club of Wyandotte County. He was also proud of his electoral success as one of the most popular elected officials in the history of Wyandotte County; and

WHEREAS, Bill Wisdom was a loving husband and father. He is survived by his wife, Joann; a daughter, Joni Riley; a son, Lieutenant Colonel Billie J. Wisdom, Jr.; two granddaughters, Joyce and Anne Wisdom and a grandson, Kelly Riley: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Bill Wisdom and thank him for the years of public service he gave to his state and community; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide five enrolled copies of this resolution to Joann Wisdom, 1915 South 29th Street Court, Kansas City, Kansas 66106.

Senate Resolution No. 1807 was sponsored by Senators Hensley, Allen, Bunten, Clark, Corbin, Donovan, Gilstrap, Haley, Helgerson, Jordan, Kerr, Lee, Morris, Oleen, Steineger, Wagle.

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.*