

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6026

A RESOLUTION in memory of Justice Harold S. Herd.

WHEREAS, Justice Harold S. Herd died Monday, April 23, 2007, in his hometown of Coldwater at age 88; and

WHEREAS, Justice Herd, born June 3, 1918, in Comanche County, Kansas, was the second child of J.J. Herd and Bernice Shields Herd. He graduated from Protection High School in 1936 and attended Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas for two years where he lettered in football, track and debate. He then went on to transfer to Washburn University to study law and again he lettered in football and track. Justice Herd received a B.A. in 1940 and a Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1942; and

WHEREAS, Justice Herd then joined the war effort, serving in the Pacific Theater as a naval officer aboard the USS Rio Grande and USS Cache. In 1946, he left the Navy as a Lieutenant and returned to his hometown of Coldwater where he maintained his private law practice until 1979; and

WHEREAS, Justice Herd believed passionately in public service and the role of citizenship in sustaining a healthy and just nation. During the 1950's, he served as mayor of Coldwater, Comanche County Attorney, and then Coldwater City Attorney. In 1964, he ran for and won election to the Kansas State Senate as a Democrat and was Senate Minority Leader from 1969-1973. In all of these elected positions, he worked tirelessly in support of public education and the protection of individuals and their liberties from undue influence from the wealthy and powerful; and

WHEREAS, A well respected and accomplished attorney, Justice Herd was appointed to the Kansas Supreme Court in 1979 by former Governor John Carlin. Justice Herd sat on the Supreme Court until 1993. He helped interpret the law on a wide range of issues, including water rights, oil and gas, women's rights and the separation of power to sustain the public good. After retiring from the Kansas Supreme Court, Justice Herd became a Distinguished Jurist in Residence at Washburn University School of Law where he taught constitutional history. Justice Herd retired from that position in 2002 and returned home to Coldwater; and

WHEREAS, Justice Herd was Past President of the Coldwater Lions Club, a member of Coldwater First Presbyterian Church, and a Master Mason, Masonic Lodge #295. He served on the Washburn Law School Board of Governors; the Kansas Committee for the Humanities; the University of Kansas Hall Center for the Humanities; Executive Council for the Kansas Bar, and President of the SW Kansas Bar Association. Justice Herd's honors include: Who's Who in America; Who's Who in American Law; Who's Who in American Bench and Bar; Fellow in the American and Kansas Bar Foundations; Distinguished Service Award by the Kansas Bar Association in 1991, the Washburn Law School Association in 1995, and special recognition from Kansas high school teachers for his constant efforts in helping students understand the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, Justice Herd is survived by his wife of 67 years, Midge Herd, six children, 13 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, as well as 4 siblings: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That we honor the life of Justice Harold S. Herd and the public service he gave to his community and state, and extend our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

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

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*Speaker of the House.*

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*Chief Clerk of the House.*