

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1837

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending Dr. Gary J. Daniels upon his retirement after 39 years of public service.

WHEREAS, Dr. Gary J. Daniels, former Social and Rehabilitation Services Secretary, has retired after completing two years in this position and 39 years of public service; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Daniels began his years of public service working as a psychiatric aide at Parsons State Hospital and Training Center in 1964. He then earned his Bachelor of Arts from Kansas State College of Pittsburg in June 1965, and went to work as a clinical psychologist for the Four County Mental Health Clinic and the Parsons State Hospital and Training Center. Dr. Daniels earned his Master of Science from Kansas State College of Pittsburg in June of 1967; and

WHEREAS, In 1971, Dr. Daniels moved to the state of Ohio where he was a member of the Mental Health Paraprofessional Curriculum Planning Committee for Columbus Technical Institute, and also worked as a staff psychologist for the Nisonger Center for Mental Retardation at Ohio State University. While in Ohio, Dr. Daniels earned his Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Child Psychology from Ohio State University; and

WHEREAS, Upon his return to the state of Kansas in 1973, Dr. Daniels served as the Director of Clinical Psychology at the Parsons State Hospital and Training Center, where he worked until 1979. Dr. Daniels then served as superintendent of the Parsons State Hospital and Training Center from 1979 until 2004, when he was appointed cabinet secretary for Social and Rehabilitation Services. Dr. Daniels served in that position until his retirement in 2006; and

WHEREAS, At various times since 1973, Dr. Daniels has also served as an instructor at Pittsburg State University where he has taught various graduate level psychology courses; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Daniels has received numerous professional recognitions during his career. In 1983, Dr. Daniels was named Administrator of the Year by the Kansas Association for Retarded Citizens. In 1984, Dr. Daniels was made an Honorary Member of the Kansas Association of Health Service Technology. Dr. Daniels received the Honored Alumni Award from the Department of Psychology and Counseling of Pittsburg State University in 1986. Finally, Dr. Daniels was awarded the Alumni Meritorious Achievement Award from Pittsburg State University in 1997; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his service to the state, Dr. Daniels has founded numerous organizations that are dedicated to improving the lives of people with developmental disabilities. In 1980, Dr. Daniels established the Sunbelt Special Rodeo, an annual event for more than 200 persons with developmental disabilities from all over the country and Canada to participate in two days of rodeo events; Dr. Daniels has served as General Rodeo Chairman since its inception. In 1982, Dr. Daniels became a founding board member of the Parsons State Hospital Endowment Association. The association provides start up funds for persons wanting to implement innovative projects for persons who are developmentally disabled. Dr. Daniels currently still serves as a member of the board. In 1989, Dr. Daniels founded Parsons State Hospital Day Care, Inc. The Center is housed on the grounds of Parsons State Hospital and currently serves 90 children. The Center also has the distinction of being the only day care center sponsored by the State of Kansas that is outside the university system. From 1991 to 1997, Dr. Daniels served as a founding board member of Southeast Kansas Respite Services, Inc., a corporation that is a collaboration among all the agencies serving persons with disabilities in the region. This corporation serves 15 counties in Southeast Kansas by providing trained respite providers to families who have a member with a disability or Alzheimer's disease. From 1991 to present, Dr. Daniels has also served as joint coordinator for the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Consortium of Southeast Kansas. The Consortium is an informal collaboration of the five mental health centers and three community developmental disabilities organizations serving 12 counties in Southeast Kansas. Dr. Daniels coordinates quarterly meetings among the executive directors where service delivery issues among the agencies serving persons with a dual diagnosis of mental illness and mental retardation are resolved; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his professional accomplishments, Dr. Daniels has published numerous articles on the subject of persons with developmental disabilities and has been an active member in numerous professional and community organizations: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we congratulate and commend Dr. Gary J. Daniels upon his retirement as the Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation Services and that we thank him for his years of service to the people of the state of Kansas.

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to Senator Umbarger, Dr. Gary J. Daniels, the Office of Social and Rehabilitation Services, and Parsons State Hospital and Training Center.

Senate Resolution No. 1837 was sponsored by Senator Dwayne Umbarger.

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

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.