

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1878

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending Nola Ochs for being the world's oldest college graduate.

WHEREAS, Nola Ochs has earned a bachelor's degree in general studies with an emphasis in history and will be graduated from Fort Hays State University on May 12, 2007; and at 95 years of age is the oldest college graduate in the world; and

WHEREAS, Nola Ochs was born in Illinois in 1911, lived on a farm in north-western Nebraska and then moved with her family to a farm in Hodgeman County, Kansas when she was sixteen years old. After finishing high school and obtaining a teaching certificate, Nola Ochs taught school for four years and then quit her job to marry Vernon Ochs, a local wheat farmer; and

WHEREAS, Nola Ochs resumed her academic career in 1978, a few years after her husband, Vernon, passed away and her four sons were on their own. Taking one or two classes in the fall and summer semesters for ten years, Nola Ochs earned an associate's degree in general studies from Dodge City Community College in 1988; and

WHEREAS, Always desiring to continue learning about things that interested her, Nola Ochs enrolled in St. Mary of the Plains College in Dodge City, and later Fort Hays State University with the intention of earning a bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, Nola Ochs' passion for learning is also evident in her extracurricular pursuits including listening to foreign language tapes; taking computer and tax preparation classes; traveling internationally with family and friends; doing genealogical research, gardening, crocheting and baking bread; and

WHEREAS, Nola Ochs is also active in her community by being a member of the Victory Electric Cooperative and a trustee on the Southwest Kansas Library Board; and

WHEREAS, Nola Ochs' four sons are Loren, Marion and Alan Ochs, all of Jetmore, and the late Charlie Ochs. She has been blessed with 13 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Already an inspiration to the traditional students at Fort Hays, Nola Ochs also hopes to inspire other older people to continue to be active and learn new things no matter what their age; and

WHEREAS, Nola Ochs' graduation day will be all the more exciting because her granddaughter, Alexandra Ochs, will be graduating with her: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we congratulate and commend Nola Ochs for her inspiring attitude toward life and learning and for earning her bachelor's degree from Fort Hays State University on May 12, 2007, which makes her the world's oldest college graduate; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide five enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Lee for presentation to Nola Ochs and her family.

Senate Resolution No. 1878 was sponsored by Senator Janis K. Lee.

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.*