

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1830

A RESOLUTION in memory of Wesley H. Sowers.

WHEREAS, Wesley H. Sowers was born August 26, 1905 in Whiting, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sowers earned both a bachelor's and master's degree in science from Purdue University, a law degree from DePaul, and completed Harvard University's Advanced Management Program; and

WHEREAS, In 1950, Mr. Sowers moved to Wichita as vice-president of Frontier Chemical and immediately adopted this city as his "own". Mr. Sowers quickly advanced at Frontier, becoming president in 1957. The company later became a division of Vulcan Materials Company and he continued as president of the division and also a member of the Board of Vulcan; and

WHEREAS, In 1965, Vulcan urged Mr. Sowers to relocate to its headquarters in Birmingham, Alabama, but he declined, declaring his allegiance to Wichita; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sowers was a natural leader and active contributor, having an enormous impact on both the local community and the state of Kansas. Mr. Sowers held significant and numerous roles in Wichita business and civic circles in addition to governmental and educational arenas and made a positive impact in each; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sowers served on the boards of The Coleman Company, Inc., The Fourth National Bank and Trust Company of Wichita and Great Lakes Chemical Corporation. Mr. Sowers also served for 10 years in the Kansas Senate from 1971 to 1980; and

WHEREAS, In 1990, Mr. Sowers received the "Uncommon Citizen" award from the Wichita Area Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Sowers was a gentleman in every sense of the word, living a life worthy of great respect by all who were privileged to know him; and

WHEREAS, Wesley H. Sowers died February 2, 2008, at the venerable age of 102, in Richardson, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sowers was preceded in death by his wife, Gladys, and survived by his children, Penny Buxton and Wesley Sowers, Jr.; his grandchildren, Stefanie Dolese, Ashley Willis, Heather Dugan, Kevin Sowers and Kendall Sowers; and his 4 great-grandchildren: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we honor Wesley H. Sowers for his many accomplishments in industry and government, and for his considerable contributions and years of distinguished public service to his city and state, and we extend our deepest sympathy to his family and many friends; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate be directed to provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to Wesley H. Sowers, Jr., 1315 Chesterton Drive, Richardson, TX 75080, and Penny Buxton, 11600 Twisted Oak Road, Oklahoma City, OK 73120.

Senate Resolution No. 1830 was sponsored by Senators Stephen Morris and Anthony Hensley.

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.*