

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1837

A RESOLUTION in memory of Leslie "Les" Droge.

WHEREAS, Leslie A. Droge was born in rural Nashua, Montana on August 3, 1917. His parents were Henry A. and Gertrude Berdau Droge. When he was six weeks old, his family moved back to the Droge homestead near Seneca, Kansas.

WHEREAS, Les Droge attended Allison School, DuBois High School and graduated from Seneca Public High School in 1936. He worked on his uncle Albert Droge's farm during the summers. In his senior year, he joined the New Deal agency Civilian Conservation Corps, Company 1797; and

WHEREAS, Les Droge played basketball at Kansas State University and graduated from the university in 1941; and

WHEREAS, Les Droge joined the U.S. Army and served with the 82nd Airborne Division. In 1945 he was stationed in the Philippines with the 511th Parachute Regiment. He was present, in an adjacent ship, for the signing of the Armistice on the battleship Missouri and was discharged in 1947. He remained in the Army Reserves until his retirement with the rank of Lt. Colonel; and

WHEREAS, When he returned to Kansas, Les Droge continued to work on the family farm; and

WHEREAS, From 1964 until 1976, he served in the Kansas Senate where he served as Chairman of the Agriculture and Military Affairs committees; and

WHEREAS, In 1976, Les Droge was a co-sponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1650 requiring perpetual preservation in operating condition the historic passenger elevator in the east wing of the Kansas Statehouse; and

WHEREAS, While at Kansas State University, Les Droge met his wife of 66 years, Lola F. Hubbard. The couple have five children, Dennis, Douglas, Duane, Joann and Beverly; 12 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Joann Freeborn, Droge's daughter, served in the Kansas House of Representatives from 1993 until 2006; and

WHEREAS, Les Droge was one of eleven children. Four of his brothers, Arden, Charles, Harry and John, survive him. He was preceded in death by his other siblings, Clarence, Emil, Leonard, Helen, Margaret and Eleanor; and

WHEREAS, Les Droge was buried with military honors by the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and National Guard on January 19, 2008: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we honor Leslie A. "Les" Droge for his lifetime of service to his community, the state of Kansas and the country, and extend our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide 8 enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Haley for presentation to the family.

Senate Resolution No. 1837 was sponsored by Senators Haley, Pyle and Taddiken.

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.*