

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1859

A RESOLUTION honoring the life of Otto Schnellbacher, Sr., and memorializing his contribution to the Topeka community.

WHEREAS, After being very active in the Topeka community for many years, Otto Schnellbacher, Sr., died of cancer at the age of 84 on March 10, 2008, at his home in Topeka; and

WHEREAS, After growing up in Sublette, Kansas, Schnellbacher attended the University of Kansas, where he was not only an outstanding student, graduating in 1948 as senior class president and on the Dean's honor roll, but where he also won accolades as a member of both the football and basketball teams, being selected as All Conference, All American, co-captain of the 1948 Orange Bowl football team and captain of the 1948 basketball team under Coach Phog Allen; and

WHEREAS, Schnellbacher's athletic prowess led to professional sports careers in both basketball and football, where he started in the NBA play-offs, was named All Pro for three consecutive football seasons, chosen to play in two All Star football games and named to the All Time NY Giants Football Team; and

WHEREAS, After retiring from distinguished professional sports careers in both football and basketball, Schnellbacher moved to Topeka and began a career in the life insurance business, where he ultimately served as president of the Topeka Life Underwriters, Kansas State Association of Life Underwriters and Kansas General Agents and Managers Association; and

WHEREAS, Schnellbacher was a member of Most Pure Heart of Mary Church where he was chairman of three fund drives, volunteered as a coach for 14 years, served as president on the Most Pure Heart of Mary School board and as president on the Archdiocesan Call To Share board for 12 years; and

WHEREAS, Schnellbacher was president on the Hayden High School board, the first president of Cornerstone and sat on the board of Let's Help; and

WHEREAS, Schnellbacher was chairman of an ad hoc committee on race relations in the 1960s, served 15 years on the Recreation Commission-four times as chairman, and president of the Cosmopolitan Club of Topeka; and

WHEREAS, Schnellbacher served as president of the Topeka Jayhawk Club, was the chairman of the fund drive to build the St. Lawrence Catholic Campus Center at KU, co-leader of the Phog Allen statue drive and the president of the Letterperson's "K" Club; and

WHEREAS, Schnellbacher was inducted into the KU Hall of Fame in 1972, selected as a member of the KU All Time Football Team and was the honoree of the Distinguished Service Award in 1999 from the KU Alumni Association; and

WHEREAS, Schnellbacher will be remembered as a small-town Kansas boy who became a preeminent two-sport athlete and went on to become a business and community leader involved in a seemingly endless number of professional organizations and community service projects: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas:* That we honor the life of Otto Schnellbacher, Sr., and memorialize his involvement in, and contribution to, the Topeka community; and

*Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate provide five enrolled copies of this resolution to Mrs. Jane Schnellbacher, 2010 S.W. Bowman Court, Topeka, Kansas 66604.

Senate Resolution No. 1859 was sponsored by Senators Hensley, Kelly and V. Schmidt.

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.*