

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 55th Legislature (2015)

3 SENATE  
4 RESOLUTION 11

By: Anderson

5  
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution honoring the life and career of long-  
8 time Oklahoma Conservation Commission Executive  
9 Director Mike Thralls; mourning his loss; and  
10 directing distribution.

11 WHEREAS, Mike Thralls was born on November 7, 1950, in Enid,  
12 Oklahoma, to Rex and Dona Rae Thralls. He attended Billings Public  
13 Schools, and after graduation, Mike earned a degree in animal  
14 science from Oklahoma State University. He married Donna Cinnamon  
15 of Garber, Oklahoma, in 1970 and had five children: sons Ray, Greg,  
16 and Derek and daughters Michele and Angela; and

17 WHEREAS, Mike placed God and his family at the center of his  
18 life and gladly served his community and his state. He embraced  
19 those values as a farmer and rancher. He participated in many  
20 organizations including the Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, the  
21 Noble County Cattlemen's Association, the Oklahoma Farm Bureau, and  
22 the Noble County Community Board for Ag Stabilization and  
23 Conservation Service. Mike eventually became Oklahoma's Assistant  
24

1 Secretary of Agriculture and then Executive Director of the Oklahoma  
2 Conservation Commission, a position he held for 17 years; and

3 WHEREAS, Mike was a champion on behalf of Oklahoma agriculture.  
4 He encouraged farmers to voluntarily embrace conservation practices  
5 that would improve their land and water quality. Mike also  
6 emphasized partnerships at all levels to accomplish important goals  
7 in a fiscally conservative way; and

8 WHEREAS, Mike's public service also included serving ten years  
9 as a school board member at Billings Public Schools, as well as  
10 serving on the Board of Regents for Northern Oklahoma College from  
11 1989 through 1991. He also was involved with his children through  
12 4-H and FFA. He gladly served his Lord as a lifelong member of the  
13 Antelope Valley Church of the Brethren where Mike served as a  
14 deacon, board member, Sunday school teacher, and song leader; and

15 WHEREAS, Mike's love of Christ, family, and fellow citizens was  
16 reflected in his life of service which became his legacy; and

17 WHEREAS, Mike Thralls passed from this life on Tuesday, February  
18 10, 2015, at the age of 64. Mike was preceded in death by his  
19 mother, Dona Rae, and his paternal and maternal grandparents. He is  
20 survived by his father, Rex, his wife, Donna, three sons and  
21 daughters-in-law, two daughters and sons-in-law, and nine  
22 grandchildren, along with many other family members, friends, and  
23 loved ones.

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1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION  
2 OF THE 55TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

3 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate commends the life and service of  
4 Mike Thralls and hails his contributions to the State of Oklahoma.

5 THAT the Oklahoma State Senate joins his family, friends, and  
6 former constituents in mourning the loss of Mike Thralls.

7 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Mike Thralls'  
8 wife, Donna.

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