

Journal of the Senate

THIRTY-EIGHTH DAY

SENATE CHAMBER, TOPEKA, KANSAS
Friday, March 4, 2005—8:30 a.m.

The Senate was called to order by President Stephen Morris.
The roll was called with thirty-four senators present.
Senators Allen, Barnett, Betts, Brungardt, Huelskamp and Wagle were excused.
Invocation by Chaplain Fred S. Hollomon:

Heavenly Father,
Over halfway through the session
And the weekend has arrived.
Some live close, but others
Have hours they must drive.
Keep them safe and well, O God,
I know they need the rest.
But if the truth were really known;
They may get even less.
Children and grandchildren
Play athletic games;
And parents and grandparents
Must go, or it's a shame.
And, of course, there're eggs and issues;
And the question that they dread
Deals with the only bill
Which they have never read.
At the office, shop, or farm
Some things need repair;
And sometimes it is blamed on
Those who were not there.
And at home there're chores awaiting
For the one who has been gone.
And there are umpteen dozen messages
By the telephone.
Let this be their prayer, O God,
When they get back to their nest,
And found sleeping in their chair,
"Lord, I really do need rest!"
I pray in the Name of Jesus Christ,
AMEN

INTRODUCTION OF ORIGINAL MOTIONS AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

Senators O'Connor and Haley introduced the following Senate resolution, which was read:

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1825—

A RESOLUTION congratulating and commending Mr. and Mrs. George Epps, Sr. upon their 65th wedding anniversary.

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Epps met in 1938 when he was attending the former Kansas Western University in Kansas City, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, George Allen and George Ellen Epps of Kansas City, Kansas, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on February 26, 2005. They were married on February 26, 1940, in Guthrie, Oklahoma. The Epps have lived in Kansas City since 1940. The family commemorated this event with a special dinner hosted by their children and attended by family and friends. Mrs. Epps is a Proverbs 31 homemaker while Mr. Epps retired from the Department of Agriculture after 30 years. They have both been members of Quindaro's historic Allen Chapel AME Church for over 50 years; and

WHEREAS, In addition to being loving God fearing parents, the Epps have been unselfish community servants. This attribute is reflected by the considerable amount of their discretionary time devoted to volunteering for various community betterment projects. Mr. and Mrs. Epps served as members of the local Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for many years, while their children were of school age. Mr. Epps even served several terms as president of the former Vernon Grade School PTA. For over 15 years Mrs. Epps served on the local voter registration and election committee. Also, she canvassed the neighborhood in connection with the American Cancer Society's fund raising efforts, until her health precluded her ability to do so; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Epps attended the former Kansas Western University where he took classes that would prepare him for a career in journalism. Although that career did not materialize, he always possessed a love and skill for reducing his thoughts to a written format. Because of that ability, he was never hesitant to address controversial issues via numerous letters to the Kansas City Star's "Letters To The Editor". Those letters were nearly always printed on the Star's editorial page; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Epps readily attribute their marriage's longevity to their strong faith and belief in Jesus Christ. They are the proud parents of two sons, two daughters, eight grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we congratulate and commend Mr. and Mrs. Epps upon their successful life together and wish them further happiness in the years ahead; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate provide seven enrolled copies of this resolution to Mr. and Mrs. George Epps, Sr., 2221 N. 40th Street, Kansas City, KS 66104.

On emergency motion of Senator O'Connor **SR 1825** was adopted unanimously.

Senators recognized Mr. and Mrs. Epps, who were guests in the Senate, and honored them with a standing ovation. Accompanying them was their son, George, Jr.

Senator Hensley introduced the following Senate resolution, which was read:

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1826—

A RESOLUTION honoring the American GI Forum.

WHEREAS, The American GI Forum is an organization devoted to pursuing the interests of veterans and Hispanics throughout the country. The organization was founded through the efforts of Hector P. Garcia, an army veteran from Corpus Christi, Texas, in 1948. He was inspired to take action when the family of a fellow Hispanic, Felix Longoria, who was killed in action during World War II, was denied service by the only funeral parlor in Three Rivers, Texas. Through the efforts of the newly formed American GI Forum and the assistance of Senator Johnson, Private Longoria was given a hero's burial at Arlington National Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, From service during the Civil War through operation Iraqi Freedom, Hispanic Americans have served with great bravery, and many have made the ultimate

sacrifice while serving in the United States army, navy, marine corps, coast guard and air force. The Congressional Medal of Honor has been awarded to 42 Hispanic military heroes, and Hispanics are the largest single ethnic group, in proportion to the number who served, to earn this prestigious award. Their loyalty to their families, church and country are legend and in many instances have been emulated by others; and

WHEREAS, Today the organization has a five figure membership and over 500 chapters throughout the country. It has assisted returning military veterans to obtain educational, medical, housing and other benefits to which they were entitled because of their military service. Today it has broadened its objectives to become an advocate for all Hispanics in social and economic matters; and

WHEREAS, The Forum's motto is: "Education is Freedom and Freedom should be Everybody's Business." The American GI Forum founded the Hispanic Education Foundation to address educational issues of Hispanics and to solicit funding for its Matching Scholarship Program. The National GI Forum is a founder and national cosponsor of SER Jobs for Progress, Inc. This organization has provided counseling and employment training through its local affiliates and has been successful in obtaining contracts nationally through the United States Department of Labor; and

WHEREAS, The American GI Forum of Kansas has seven chapters. From 1994 through 2004 the American GI Forum of Kansas gave \$94,550 in scholarships to college students. Local chapters provide community service with projects such as participating in Memorial Day and Veteran's Day ceremonies, assisting at VA hospitals, tutoring, providing meals for needy families on holidays, assisting in voter registration and serving on organizations addressing issues such as domestic violence, community health and schools; and

WHEREAS, The American GI Forum of Kansas hosted the 1997 National American GI Forum Conference, hosted the 2003 National Mid-Year Conference, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the American GI Forum in Kansas in June 2004 and will host the National American GI Forum Conference in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Affiliated with the national organization are many state GI, women's GI and youth's GI forums who work to achieve the objectives of the national organization: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That the Senate recognizes and honors the American GI Forum and finds it most fitting to do so as many of our citizens are celebrating Hispanic Day at the Hill today; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate provide an enrolled copy of this resolution to Elias Garcia, Kansas Hispanic and Latino American Affairs Commission, 900 Jackson Street, Topeka, KS 66612.

On emergency motion of Senator Hensley **SR 1826** was adopted unanimously.

Members of the American GI Forum were guests and were acknowledged with a standing ovation.

On motion of Senator D. Schmidt the Senate adjourned until 2:30 p.m., Monday, March 7, 2005.

HELEN MORELAND, CAROL PARRETT, BRENDA KLING, *Journal Clerks.*

PAT SAVILLE, *Secretary of the Senate.*

