

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009

SCMR 1

4
5 By: Senator Bryles
6 By: Representative T. Baker

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9 **SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL**
10 **RESOLUTION**

11 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF MR. MICHAEL "MIKE" EVANS
12 WILSON AND IN RECOGNITION OF HIS MANY
13 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND HIS
14 LOCAL COMMUNITY.

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16 **Subtitle**

17 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF MR. MICHAEL
18 "MIKE" EVANS WILSON AND IN RECOGNITION
19 OF HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE
20 OF ARKANSAS AND HIS LOCAL COMMUNITY.

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23 WHEREAS, Mr. Michael "Mike" Evans Wilson of Wilson, Arkansas, died on
24 Friday, February 8, 2008, at the age of sixty-five (65) years; and

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26 WHEREAS, Mr. Wilson was elected mayor of the City of Wilson in 1986 and
27 served until his death; and

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29 WHEREAS, Mayor Wilson was one of the most compassionate and caring men
30 a person could know, and words cannot accurately express the uniqueness and
31 significance of his life and the lasting impact he had on each individual
32 with whom he came into contact; and

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34 WHEREAS, Mayor Wilson attended high school at the Baylor School in
35 Chattanooga, Tennessee, and graduated from The Citadel at Charleston, South
36 Carolina, in 1965; served in the United States Army in Korea; and achieved



1 the rank of captain in air defense artillery prior to his honorable discharge
2 in 1967; and

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4 WHEREAS, Mayor Wilson was the son of the late Robert Edward Lee Wilson
5 III and Patte Evans Wilson, and he was the great-grandson of Robert Edward
6 Lee Wilson, who founded Lee Wilson and Company of Wilson, Arkansas, in 1886;
7 and

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9 WHEREAS, following his tour of duty in the Army, Mayor Wilson returned
10 to Wilson, Arkansas, to work at Lee Wilson and Company, where he served as
11 chairman and chief executive officer from 1987 until his death; and

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13 WHEREAS, Mayor Wilson’s love for the State of Arkansas was well known,
14 as was his highly respected philanthropic work, his willingness to devote
15 countless hours to charitable endeavors, and his passion for the advancement
16 of education, both on a state and national level; and

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18 WHEREAS, he was described by Dr. Ruth Hawkins of the Arkansas State
19 University Delta Heritage Initiative Program as one who “understood the value
20 of education in improving lives, and he was a strong advocate for our
21 university, as well as other universities in the region”; and

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23 WHEREAS, Mississippi County Judge Steve McGuire of Blytheville said
24 Wilson was a strong supporter of economic development, seeking to position a
25 third bridge across the Mississippi River; and “The citizens in our county
26 would not readily recognize the value that Mike has been for Mississippi
27 County,” McGuire said. “He did not advertise what he did. He did things to
28 help the citizens of our county. He always had a different perspective, and
29 it was very positive.”; and

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31 WHEREAS, friend and businessman Frank Lyon said of Wilson, “If there
32 was a new program to benefit the Delta that he was not involved in, I do not
33 know what it was.”; and

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35 WHEREAS, Arkansas Supreme Court Justice Robert Brown describes Mayor
36 Wilson as “ultimately a man of honor and integrity who accomplished great

1 things, not for the accolades and credit but because it was the right thing
2 to do”; and

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4 WHEREAS, Mayor Wilson tirelessly served on and was a member of
5 countless boards and commissions in an effort to further education and
6 economic development in Arkansas, and he leaves a legacy of public service
7 and work on education issues; and

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9 WHEREAS, Mayor Wilson loved his wife and family more than anything in
10 the world; and

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12 WHEREAS, Mayor Wilson is survived by his wife, Patricia P. Wilson; son,
13 Perry Lee Wilson; and daughter, Natalie Evans Wilson Brownlow and husband,
14 Thomas James Tyne Brownlow; and

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16 WHEREAS, the Senate of the Eighty-Seventh General Assembly wishes to
17 publicly recognize Mr. Michael “Mike” Evans Wilson’s contributions to the
18 State of Arkansas and his local community,

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20 NOW THEREFORE,
21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
22 STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

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24 THAT the Senate recognizes Mayor Michael “Mike” Evans Wilson’s
25 commitment, hard work, dedication, and service to the State of Arkansas and
26 his local community and commends him for his leadership.

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the individual members of the Senate hereby
29 express sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Wilson, and upon adoption of
30 this resolution, an appropriate copy shall be provided to the family by the
31 Secretary of the Senate.

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