

By: Representative J. Edwards

HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF MS. MYRA LEE JONES AND IN
RECOGNITION OF HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF
ARKANSAS AND HER LOCAL COMMUNITY.

Subtitle

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CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS
AND HER LOCAL COMMUNITY.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

WHEREAS, Ms. Myra Lee Jones of Little Rock, Arkansas, died on February
20, 2012, at the age of seventy-five (75) years; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones was raised on a ranch north of Rapid City, South
Dakota, where she was active in 4-H, and training and showing cattle; and she
attributed her strong work ethic to her experiences growing up on a working
ranch; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones was an accomplished musician and received a
scholarship to attend the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Oberlin, Ohio;
after graduation, she taught music in the Des Moines, Iowa, public schools
and subsequently became a consultant for teaching music on television to
students in six (6) counties; while teaching, earned a master's degree in
music education at Drake University; and she was also a graduate of the



Executive Education Program at Harvard Business School; and

WHEREAS, after moving to Little Rock, Arkansas, Ms. Jones was the first woman elected to a full term on the Little Rock City Board of Directors where she served from 1977 to 1984, including four (4) years as Vice-Mayor; served seven (7) terms in the Arkansas House of Representatives from 1985 through 1998 and became the first woman to chair a standing committee, the City, County and Local Affairs Committee; and owned her own business, was a licensed realtor, worked since 2001 as a local government affairs consultant for the Little Rock REALTORS Association, and served on the board of Noram Energy (formerly ArkLa) for seventeen (17) years, becoming one of the first women from Arkansas to serve on a Fortune 500 Board; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her service on the Little Rock City Board and the Arkansas General Assembly, Ms. Jones served as chair of the Commerce and Communications Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures, a member of the Local and State Government Advisory Committee of the Federal Communications Commission, and a member of the Board of Directors of the National League of Cities; was a proud member of the Arkansas Women's Political Caucus; served on the platform committee for the 1992 Democratic National Convention; and was a member of the Arkansas Travelers, working in Bill Clinton's campaign for President and for Hillary Clinton's presidential bid; and

WHEREAS, the Little Rock Rotary Club made her a Paul Harris Fellow in 2001 and Rotarian of the Year for 2002-2003; she received the Arkansas Spirit Award from the National Association of Women Business Owners in 2001; she was selected one (1) of the "Top 100 Women in Arkansas" by Arkansas Business Publishing Group for four (4) years; and she was named Representative of the Year by the Arkansas Municipal League in 1997 and Person of the Year in 1989; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones was a board member of the Little Rock Rotary Club, a member of the Aesthetic Club, founding member of the Women's Foundation of Arkansas and the Heights Neighborhood Association, former president of the Women's Leadership Forum, and a member and former chair of St. Vincent

Women's Health Advisory Board; was a founding board member and former chair of Junior Achievement of Arkansas, the board of directors of the Quapaw Area Boy Scouts Council, the executive committee and board of the Greater Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the board of the UALR Foundation Fund; and previously served on the State Capitol Arts and Grounds Commission and the Governor's Mansion Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones always said how proud she was that she was able to serve her state, her neighborhood, and her constituents, but that her proudest accomplishments were her children and grandchildren and her most important titles were Mom and Mimi; and her friends summed her up like this, "Myra was caring and compassionate, a true friend, with super organizational skills, and the ability to multitask and run on never-ending energy, always working with you and for you. She will be sorely missed."; and

WHEREAS, her father, Ernest Gutsche, and her mother, Edith Anderson, preceded her in death; she is survived by her daughter, Melissa (Missy) Bowen and husband, Stephen of Maumelle, Arkansas; her son, Michael Jones and wife, Tonia of Greenville, Texas; and four (4) grandsons, Drew and Ethan Bowen, and Patrick and Jacob Jones,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives recognizes Ms. Myra Lee Jones's commitment, hard work, dedication, and years of service, and commends her for her contributions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the individual members of the House of Representatives hereby express sincere condolences to the family of Ms. Jones, and upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy shall be provided to her family by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.