

By: Senator J. Key

SENATE RESOLUTION

HONORING UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE JOHN PAUL
HAMMERSCHMIDT ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Subtitle

HONORING UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT ON THE 20TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS
RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, John Paul Hammerschmidt, a native of Harrison, Boone County, Arkansas, served with distinction and honor in the United States House of Representatives from the Northwestern Arkansas District for 13 terms, announcing his retirement on March 3, 1992; and

WHEREAS, the Honorable United States Representative John Paul Hammerschmidt from Harrison, Arkansas, was the first Republican elected to Congress from Arkansas since 1877 and represented Arkansas' Third Congressional District for 26 years from 1967 until his retirement in 1993; and

WHEREAS, Representative Hammerschmidt served his constituents tirelessly in their dealings with federal agencies, especially as an advocate for veterans' benefits and serving as a member of the Veterans Affairs Committee; and



WHEREAS, Representative Hammerschmidt, as a ranking member of the House Public Works Committee, helped guide federal funding to Arkansas for projects such as the construction of Highway 540 from Interstate Highway 40 to the Missouri line, the four-lane divided Highway 65 from Harrison to the Missouri line, federal buildings in Fayetteville and Harrison, and the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport; and

WHEREAS, Representative Hammerschmidt sponsored a bill that in 1972 established the Buffalo River in Arkansas as the nation's first national river, under management of the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Representative Hammerschmidt joined the Army Air Corps, was commissioned as a second lieutenant, and volunteered to serve with the Third Combat Cargo Group in the China-India-Burma Theater. He flew 217 combat missions, many over the eastern Himalayan Mountains. For his service he received the Distinguished Flying Cross with three oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters, three Battle Stars, and the Meritorious Service Award; and

WHEREAS, Representative Hammerschmidt graduated in 1938 from Harrison High School, attended The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, from 1938 to 1939, the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville from 1940 to 1941, and after serving in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II, attended Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma, from 1945 to 1946 where he received a bachelor of science degree; and

WHEREAS, Representative Hammerschmidt was a delegate to the Republican National Conventions in 1964, 1968, 1972, 1976, 1980, 1984, 1988, and 1992 and was twice the state chairman of the Republican Party of Arkansas, serving from 1964 to 1966, and again from 2002 to 2004; and

WHEREAS, Representative Hammerschmidt was a member of the President's Commission on Aviation Security and Terrorism established in September 1989 to review and report on aviation security policy in the wake of the sabotage of Pan Am Flight 103 on December 21, 1988; and

WHEREAS, Representative Hammerschmidt served in the United States Air Force Reserve from 1945 to 1960, and the United States Army Reserve from 1977 to 1981, is a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Freemasons, Shriners, Elks Club, Rotary International, and has Alumni status at the Alpha Zeta chapter of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Representative Hammerschmidt was instrumental since the early 1970s in bringing to completion the planning of Interstate 540, connecting the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and the State Capitol via Interstate 40. On January 8, 1999, the road was fully opened to traffic and was re-designated I-540 and also designated the "John Paul Hammerschmidt Highway" in honor of the former United States Representative from Arkansas,

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the Senate honors and recognizes United States Representative John Paul Hammerschmidt upon the 20th anniversary of the announcement of his retirement from his distinguished service to the State of Arkansas as a member of the United States House of Representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon its adoption, a copy of this resolution be delivered to Representative Hammerschmidt as a testament to his distinguished service and as a token of the state's gratitude.