

State of Arkansas
89th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2013

HCMR 1001

By: Representatives Baine, Shepherd
By: Senator B. Pierce

HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF MR. BOBBY GENE NEWMAN AND IN
RECOGNITION OF HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF
ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND HIS LOCAL
COMMUNITY.

Subtitle

IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF MR. BOBBY GENE
NEWMAN AND IN RECOGNITION OF HIS
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS,
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND HIS
LOCAL COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, Mr. Bobby Gene Newman was born on October 1, 1926, in El Dorado, Arkansas, and passed from this life on March 3, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Newman was a veteran of the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Newman graduated from El Dorado High School in 1944, from Ouachita Baptist University in 1950, and received his Masters' Degree from the University of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, as a man of great faith and conviction, Mr. Newman was a member of Immanuel Baptist Church in El Dorado, Arkansas, where he attended Sunday School and participated in many activities; and



WHEREAS, as a young man, Mr. Newman and his first wife participated in the building of the Maple Avenue Baptist Church in Smackover, Arkansas, where he raised his family as a faithful member, taught Sunday School and Training Union and served as a deacon for many years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Newman was owner and president of Smackover Insurance Agency, Inc., in Smackover, Arkansas, where he worked every day for fifty (50) years until September 18, 2012, when a hip replacement forced his retirement; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Newman represented various parts of Union, Calhoun, Ouachita, and Columbia counties in the House of Representatives from 1969 to 1998; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the House, Mr. Newman prided himself in helping the people of Southern Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Newman was a member of the Arkansas Legislative Council from 1970-1998, where he served as chair during 1987-1988; and

WHEREAS, education was a passion for Mr. Newman, and he served as a member of the House Education Committee during his entire tenure in the House of Representatives, serving as vice chair from 1983-1990 and as chair from 1991-1994; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Newman also served on the Joint Budget, Insurance and Commerce, and Rules Committees; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the House of Representatives, Mr. Newman was proud to have co-sponsored the Arkansas Breast Cancer Act; sponsored legislation creating the Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources in Smackover, Arkansas; co-sponsored legislation creating Southern Arkansas University Tech in East Camden, Arkansas, and Southern Arkansas University, El Dorado Branch, now known as South Arkansas Community College; co-sponsored legislation that created Arkansas' area health education centers and ensured that there was a branch in South Arkansas; and was instrumental in creating four-lane highways

from Smackover, Arkansas, to El Dorado, Arkansas, and from El Dorado to Junction City, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, a 4.7-mile segment of Arkansas Highway 7 was renamed in Newman's honor in 2011, recognizing his contributions to northern Union County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Newman was dedicated to his work with rural water associations, rural fire departments, and acquiring natural gas for the communities of Lisbon, Lawson, and Three Creeks, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Newman was a public servant committed not only to serving the people who elected him to his seat in the Arkansas General Assembly, but to anyone who needed help; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Newman considered himself an American, not a Democrat or Republican; and considered himself a statesman, not a politician; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Newman led an active and resourceful life, enjoyed being a member of the Smackover Chamber of Commerce, where he served as president; enjoyed being a member of the Smackover Lions Club, the Smackover Public Library Board of Directors, Friends of the Museum, and the South Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame Board of Directors; coached Little League; served as a Gideon; and attended performances of the South Arkansas Symphony; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Newman worked tirelessly with other men to develop the Pine Hills Country Club in Smackover, Arkansas, and proudly displayed his membership card as member number two (2); and

WHEREAS, a man who never compromised his principles, Mr. Newman was impeccable in character and integrity with his first loyalty to God and his convictions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Newman is preceded in death by his parents, Benton Albert and Mary Louise Roan Newman; his wife of forty-five (45) years, Mary Elizabeth Raper Newman; and a daughter, Molly Gay Newman; and survivors

include his wife of fifteen (15) years, Joan Martin Brasher Newman; a son, Brad Newman; a daughter, Lacy Newman; two brothers, A.G. (Joann) Newman, and Donald Ray Newman; and various other friends and family members,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the House of Representatives recognizes Mr. Bobby Gene Newman's hard work, dedication, and years of service to his local community, the House of Representatives, and the State of Arkansas, and commends him for his leadership.

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