

By: Senator Rapert

SENATE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF FORMER ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER
ARIEL SHARON AND RECOGNIZE HIS MILITARY ACHIEVEMENTS
AND ROLE IN SOLIDIFYING UNITED STATES-ISRAELI
RELATIONS.

Subtitle

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WHEREAS, former Israeli prime minister and storied general Ariel Sharon, who was at the height of his power when he suffered a stroke in 2006 and fell into an irreversible coma, died January 11, 2014, at the age of 85; and

WHEREAS, Sharon was buried on a hill overlooking his family ranch, amid twin ceremonies in which he was eulogized as a courageous commander and pragmatic politician who relentlessly defended the land he loved. "Like all historic leaders, all real leaders, he had a North Star that guided him", Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. said at a morning memorial in front of Israel's Parliament building in Jerusalem. "His North Star was the survival of the state of Israel and the Jewish people wherever they resided."; and

WHEREAS, Sharon, the military fighter and farmer from Israel's founding generation, was an iconic figure who fought in four wars before entering



politics; and

WHEREAS, Sharon's military career flourished as he became a commander in the Israeli army and was celebrated as a military strategist; he was an instrumental figure in the 1956 Suez War, the Six-Day War of 1967, War of Attrition, and the Yom Kippur War of 1973; and as Minister of Defense, he directed the 1982 Lebanon War; and

WHEREAS, Sharon was never apologetic, but always confident in what was just and right for the Jewish people, and proudly proclaimed Israel's interests; and

WHEREAS, when first elected prime minister in 2001, Sharon was still controversial in the international community and especially in the United States. As world leaders worked with him, they discovered the real Sharon. The special personal relationship he developed with President George W. Bush was based on mutual trust and respect; and

WHEREAS, during Sharon's term as prime minister, United States-Israeli relations reached an all-time high in strategic and defense cooperation during international crises, including American support for Operation Defensive Shield and targeted counterterrorism operations in the Gaza Strip,

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the Senate honors the memory of former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and recognizes his military achievements and role in solidifying United States-Israeli relations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, the Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy to the United States Ambassador to Israel.