

State of Arkansas
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SR 13

By: Senator E. Cheatham

SENATE RESOLUTION

HONORING DR. H. JACKSON LASSITER FOR HIS MANY
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT
MONTICELLO UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS CHANCELLOR.

Subtitle

HONORING DR. H. JACKSON LASSITER FOR HIS
MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF
ARKANSAS AT MONTICELLO UPON HIS
RETIREMENT AS CHANCELLOR.

WHEREAS, after more than 10 years as Chancellor of the University of Arkansas at Monticello, Dr. Jack Lassiter, a native of Greenville, Texas, and the first of 2 children born to parents Zelda and Harold Jackson Lassiter, Sr., retired on January 5, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lassiter earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Texas A&M University-Commerce, then known as East Texas State University, in 1968. He was the first in his extended family to attend college; he earned his master's degree in guidance and counseling in 1969; and he went on to pursue his doctorate of education degree from Texas A&M, Commerce, in 1976 while serving as an adjunct instructor at Richland Community College in Dallas, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lassiter first joined the University of Arkansas at Monticello in 1977 as the director of the Learning Development Center; he then served as dean of college and student services at Wharton County Junior



College in Texas for 2 years; in 1980, he returned to UAM and held the position of vice chancellor for university relations and student services for 13 years and vice chancellor for academic affairs for 4 years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lassiter served as Chancellor of the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville from 1997-2001 and as the vice president of the University of Arkansas System in Little Rock, Arkansas from 2001-2004; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lassiter returned to UAM in 2004 as the 11th chancellor of the university and held the position until his retirement in 2015; he had the distinction of leading the institution during its centennial celebration from April 1, 2009, to September 14, 2010; and

WHEREAS, some of Dr. Lassiter's many accomplishments as chancellor at UAM include the Taylor House and Hollywood Plantation revitalization project; the remodeling of Convoy Leslie-Cotton Boll Stadium; the construction of the indoor practice facility for athletics, the marching band, and intramurals; renovations to the baseball and softball complexes; the creation of the Centennial Circle Endowment and the construction of the Centennial Clock Tower; the remodeling of Bankston Hall, Wells Hall, and Sorrells Hall; the purchase and remodeling of the Trotter House Bed and Breakfast; and the expansion of the George H. Clippert Forest Resources Annex; and

WHEREAS, one of Dr. Lassiter's most popular achievements is the rehabilitation of the Weevil Pond, which provides the university and community a tailgating atmosphere before Boll Weevil football games, and more importantly, a lasting tradition; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lassiter made significant curriculum changes at UAM, including the creation of online master's degrees and upgrades to existing programs; the curriculum changes allow the university to assist students through technical certificates all the way to master's degrees; and

WHEREAS, while Dr. Lassiter served as chancellor at UAM, he reestablished a meaningful relationship between the university and the

surrounding community, strengthening the university's mission as an open admissions university and creating a welcoming atmosphere that encourages the community to feel connected to the university; and

WHEREAS Dr. Lassiter established stronger alumni relationships, instilled an unprecedented level of transparency in university operations, and saw a meaningful growth in the university's enrollment; and

WHEREAS during Dr. Lassiter's 28 years at UAM, he shared a special bond with the institution, students, and community; he helped establish a school spirit that permeates the campus and community, making people proud to ask, "Do you have what it takes to be a Boll Weevil?"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Lassiter and his wife, Judy, are proud to have chosen Monticello to call home and will continue to reside in Monticello after Dr. Lassiter's retirement,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT Dr. H. Jackson Lassiter be commended for his many contributions to the University of Arkansas at Monticello and the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution an appropriate copy be provided to Dr. Lassiter by the Secretary of the Senate.