

By: Representatives Lowery, Bragg, Tucker

HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

REMEMBERING RAYMOND HOYT THORNTON, JR., AND HIS MANY
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

Subtitle

REMEMBERING RAYMOND HOYT THORNTON, JR.,
AND HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE
OF ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, Raymond Hoyt "Ray" Thornton, Jr., born on June 16, 1928, in Conway, Arkansas, died on April 13, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thornton graduated from Sheridan High School and earned a degree in political science from Yale University before receiving a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 1956; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thornton served in the United States Navy during the Korean War, during which he reached the rank of lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thornton enjoyed a breathtaking career in public service, serving as Attorney General from 1971 to 1973, United States Representative for Arkansas's 4th District from 1973 to 1979, and United States Representative for Arkansas's 2nd District from 1991 to 1997; also serving as a Justice of the Supreme Court from 1997 to 2005; was president of two (2) public universities, Arkansas State University from 1980 to 1984 and the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville from 1984 to 1990; and in 2009, was the interim chair of the Arkansas Lottery Commission; and



WHEREAS, while in Congress, Mr. Thornton served on the House Judiciary Committee that investigated the Watergate break-ins that led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon; and he was among six (6) bipartisan committee members who drafted articles of impeachment against Mr. Nixon; and

WHEREAS, Governor Asa Hutchinson called Mr. Thornton an "Arkansas gem who passionately served the people of this state for many years. He was a man who had a genuine heart for the people of Arkansas. Every time I saw Ray, he had a smile and a word of encouragement", Hutchinson said. "He will be greatly missed, and my heart goes out to his family and loved ones."; and

WHEREAS, former Governor Mike Beebe said he and his wife, Ginger, were saddened to learn of Mr. Thornton's death, saying "He was a gentleman, who always wore a smile and welcomed everyone he met with civility and a warm heart. But he was most admired for his intellect, his integrity, his leadership abilities, and his passion for serving the people of our state."; and

WHEREAS, United States Representative French Hill noted that Mr. Thornton, a veteran of the Korean War, dedicated his entire adult life to service of his state and nation, stating "He was a true gentlemen and an outstanding leader who used his drive, wit, and energy to represent our citizens and improve higher educational opportunity for our young people. Though he will be greatly missed by many throughout Arkansas, his countless contributions will live on for many years to come.",

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the House of Representatives remembers and commends Raymond Hoyt "Ray" Thornton, Jr., for his many contributions to the State of Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy be provided to the family of Mr. Thornton by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.