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HCR 1009

By: Representatives G. McGill, Boyd, C. Douglas, Eubanks, C. Fite, Pitsch, Richmond
By: Senators Files, Rice

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY *B.G. HENDRIX* TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION TO NAME THE 616 GARRISON BUILDING IN FORT SMITH IN HIS HONOR.

Subtitle

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY MR. *B.G. HENDRIX* TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION TO NAME THE 616 GARRISON BUILDING IN FORT SMITH IN HIS HONOR.

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

WHEREAS, Mr. *B.G. Hendrix* was born on December 16, 1922, in the Arkansas community of Jenny Lind, to loving parents; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hendrix attended Arkansas primary and secondary schools, as well as Arkansas institutions of higher education; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hendrix became a licensed funeral director before the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941; and in 1941, he enlisted in the United States Coast Guard, in which he served three (3) years, helped to save lives, and received many awards and citations for his service; and



WHEREAS, while stationed in Delaware, Mr. Hendrix met Janis Williams, who became his wife, and they shared a loving marriage and life together for more than sixty (60) years, raising two (2) children together and welcoming many grandchildren and great-grandchildren along the way; and

WHEREAS, after the war, Mr. Hendrix owned and operated the first ambulance service in Arkansas for ten (10) years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hendrix dedicated his life to public service, serving over forty (40) years in various capacities; became the first civil defense coordinator in Sebastian County, Arkansas; and served on the Sebastian County Quorum Court, as the Sebastian County Coroner, and briefly as Sebastian County Sheriff, Attorney General, and acting Governor; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hendrix was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1963, and he served seventeen (17) consecutive terms for a total of thirty-four (34) years; and

WHEREAS, while in the House of Representatives, he served as Speaker of the House and served on many committees; and while serving as Speaker of the House, he was elected by other Speakers of the House of Representatives from other states to represent the group in Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Speaker Hendrix has been involved with countless civic organizations, charitable causes, and veterans' affairs; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Hendrix always gave of himself to help others and to expand education and economic development opportunities for his region and the entire state; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Hendrix, among many measures, sponsored legislation that gave citizens the right to levy a countywide sales tax to pay for city and county improvements; authored legislation that created a prison industry program, saving taxpayers millions of dollars; helped create the UAMS - Arkansas Health Education Centers to train doctors and provide medical services for the underserved; consistently promoted adult education and the

GED program; played an integral role in the maintenance and expansion of Lake Fort Smith State Park and Devil's Den State Park; created the Silver Haired Legislature to give senior citizens a forum in government; led the fight to establish a boot camp for first-time offenders; and sponsored legislation to have white stripes applied to all paved two-lane roads, saving countless lives over the years; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Hendrix always emphasized the need for government to provide a better quality of life for the citizens of the state; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Hendrix said, "The best way to exercise your heart is to reach down and pick someone up", and throughout his service in Arkansas, he exemplified that phrase; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Hendrix said, "I never misplaced the people's trust in any way. I have been able to touch so many lives and improve the quality of life for poor and rich alike"; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Hendrix was instrumental in securing the 616 Garrison Building in Fort Smith, a state office building,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

That the individual members of the House of Representatives express their recognition of and appreciation for the dedication and hard work Speaker B.G. Hendrix gave to the citizens of the state and direct the Department of Finance and Administration to name the 616 Garrison Building in Fort Smith, Arkansas, in his honor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the adoption of the resolution, a copy shall be provided to Speaker B.G. Hendrix and to the Director of the Department of Finance and Administration by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.

/s/G. McGill