

By: Senators Bond, Hickey, Maloch
By: Representatives Tucker, Sabin, Walker

**SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL
RESOLUTION**

IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF JUSTICE DONALD CORBIN AND IN
RECOGNITION OF HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF
ARKANSAS.

Subtitle

IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF JUSTICE DONALD
CORBIN AND IN RECOGNITION OF HIS MANY
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, Justice Donald Louis Corbin, born on March 29, 1938, in Hot Springs, Arkansas, died on December 12, 2016, at the age of 78; and

WHEREAS, Justice Corbin graduated from Lewisville High School in 1956, where he played football and was a national champion poultry judge with the Future Farmers of America; and

WHEREAS, Justice Corbin, after serving in the United States Marine Corps, graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1963 with a degree in history and sociology before earning his law degree from the University of Arkansas in 1966; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from law school, Justice Corbin practiced law in De Queen, Arkansas; Lewisville, Arkansas; and Stamps, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Justice Corbin won his first political race for city attorney



of Lewisville, Arkansas, and subsequently won every other political race he entered, 6 for municipal or legislative offices, and 5 for appellate judgeships; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, Justice Corbin was elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives, where he served as a voice for rural communities, proving instrumental in passing the Rural Medical Practice Act, obtaining public television services for outlying regions, and securing funding for the neonatal unit at Arkansas Children's Hospital; and

WHEREAS, in 1980, Justice Corbin was elected to the Arkansas Court of Appeals, where he served for 10 years, spending the last 4 years as Chief Judge; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Justice Corbin was elected to the Arkansas Supreme Court, where he served as an Associate Justice for 24 years before he retired in December 2014; and

WHEREAS, Justice Corbin will always be remembered by his friends as one who told stories about his children, whether it was standing in freezing weather to watch their games or being the house parent for his daughter's soccer camp; and

WHEREAS, Governor Asa Hutchison expressed his condolences to Justice Corbin's family, stating that Corbin "always acted with integrity"; and

WHEREAS, former Arkansas Supreme Court Justice Paul Danielson, who served on the Arkansas Supreme Court with Justice Corbin, recently stated that Corbin's career will "never be duplicated," and called him a "tremendous judge"; and

WHEREAS, Justice Danielson was "deeply saddened" to hear of his friend's passing, stating, "He put the Court above himself and above politics, and he always did what he believed was right, never fearing public criticism"; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas Supreme Court Chief Justice Howard Brill has stated that Justice Corbin's "booming presence will be missed in the halls of justice"; and

WHEREAS, former Arkansas Supreme Court Justice Robert L. Brown praised Justice Corbin's ability to cut the tension during oral arguments, stating that he "had more personality than everybody on the court put together"; and

WHEREAS, Justice Corbin experienced many health problems throughout his judicial career, undergoing many treatments and surgeries for 2 types of cancer and heart, arterial, and gastric ailments, but he rarely missed a week of opinion writing, penning over 1,150 opinions during his time as a jurist; and

WHEREAS, despite Justice Corbin's prolonged health problems, he was able to fulfill many dreams, including performing his son Kyle's wedding ceremony; swearing his daughter Jennifer in as an attorney; walking his daughter Allison down the aisle; meeting and falling in love with his granddaughter, Emerson Claire; seeing his son Slater finish his first semester of graduate school; and seeing his daughter Ashley master 3 languages and travel fearlessly across 4 continents and 28 countries; and

WHEREAS, Justice Corbin is predeceased by his parents, Louis Emerson and Louise Corbin, his son Byron Corbin, and his brother Glen Corbin; and

WHEREAS, Justice Corbin is survived by his wife, Dorcy Kyle Corbin, and their children; son Kyle Corbin and daughter-in-law Amanda Corbin of Denver, Colorado; daughter Jennifer Corbin of Little Rock, Arkansas; daughter Allison and son-in-law Addison Anthony of Little Rock, Arkansas; son Slater Corbin of Little Rock, Arkansas; daughter Ashley Corbin of Denver, Colorado; and granddaughter Emerson Claire Anthony of Little Rock, Arkansas,

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the General Assembly remembers and commends Justice Donald Louis Corbin for his hard work, dedication, and many contributions to the State of Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the individual members of the General Assembly hereby express sincere condolences to the family of Justice Donald Louis Corbin and upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy shall be provided to the family of Justice Corbin by the Secretary of the Senate.