

By: Senator K. Ingram

SENATE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

TO REMEMBER MR. DON ZIMMERMAN AND TO COMMEMORATE HIS
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MUNICIPALITIES AND STATE OF
ARKANSAS.

Subtitle

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COMMEMORATE HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
MUNICIPALITIES AND STATE OF ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, Mr. Don Zimmerman, the longtime Executive Director of the Arkansas Municipal League, died Sunday, June 24, 2018, in Little Rock, Arkansas, at the age of 75; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Zimmerman had been working for the Arkansas Municipal League for 52 years at the time of his death and had served as the executive director since 1974; and

WHEREAS, Joe Smith, President of the Arkansas Municipal League and mayor of North Little Rock, said, "[Don] wanted every city to be as good as it could be. Everybody got treated the same. Everybody got the same help because we all have the same issues"; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Municipal League's news release on Mr. Zimmerman's death said in part, "It's in times, such as this, that Don's incredible work ethic, affection and dedication for the cities and towns of Arkansas is carried on in his memory. We are heartbroken, as a staff, but know that Don Zimmerman wants us to carry on for the cities and towns of



Arkansas"; and

WHEREAS, Jim Dailey, former mayor of Little Rock, said, "Don was revered, respected and in many ways, probably feared by people in legislative groups -- particularly at the state or federal levels. He knew what he was talking about. He did his homework. He was respected nationwide, if not worldwide"; and

WHEREAS, just 2 years after graduating from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 1964, Mr. Zimmerman joined the Arkansas Municipal League as a field representative; and before taking the job of executive director, he also served as managing editor of the Arkansas Municipal League's magazine, on the Arkansas Municipal League's legislative council, and as assistant director of the Arkansas Municipal League; and

WHEREAS, alongside his duties as executive director, Mr. Zimmerman served 2 terms on the board of directors of the National League of Cities and served as administrator of the Arkansas Municipal League's Municipal Legal Defense Program, the Municipal Health Benefit Fund, the Municipal Vehicle Program, and the Municipal Property Program; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Joe Smith also said, "He was a very dynamic leader who took the Arkansas Municipal League to be the best municipal league in the country. I don't think anybody would question that. He was a great leader and just as good a friend. All 500 cities [in the league] are going to miss him"; and

WHEREAS, Mark Stodola, former mayor of Little Rock, called Mr. Zimmerman a "stalwart advocate" for the cities and towns of the state; and

WHEREAS, on the day of Mr. Zimmerman's death, Governor Asa Hutchinson said, "This is a very sad day with the loss of my friend Don Zimmerman. He mentored so many mayors through the years, including my dad who considered Don as one of the best. Don was a great Arkansan and always put his family first but loved Arkansas very deeply",

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate remembers and honors Mr. Don Zimmerman for his longtime service to the cities and towns of Arkansas and for his contributions to the betterment of our great state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution shall be presented to Ms. Jan Zimmerman by the Secretary of the Senate.