

By: Representatives D. Whitaker, Breaux, Clowney, Coleman, C. Fite, D. Garner, Godfrey, Lundstrum,
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HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

TO REMEMBER REPRESENTATIVE CHARLIE STEWART AND TO
HONOR HIS COMMITMENT TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND HIS
LOCAL COMMUNITY.

Subtitle

TO REMEMBER REPRESENTATIVE CHARLIE
STEWART AND TO HONOR HIS COMMITMENT TO
THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND HIS LOCAL
COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, Charles W. Stewart of Fayetteville, Arkansas, died on Monday, February 1, 2021, at the age of ninety-three (93), and was preceded in death by his wife Joanne Dee Rogers Stewart on May 22, 2015, after fifty-nine (59) years of marriage; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stewart was co-owner of Ozark Steel and a licensed attorney since 1951, a member of the Washington County Bar Association until his death, and a faithful member for decades of the Evening Lions Club, the Exchange Club, and the First Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Stewart had a very keen interest in local history and was a longtime member of the Washington County Historical Society; served as the society President for three (3) years from 1996 to 1999; and was installed as a Distinguished Citizen of Washington County by the society in 2002; and

WHEREAS, entering politics as a young attorney was the paramount trial in the post-World War II climate in Arkansas, so Mr. Stewart entered a



primary for the House of Representatives and won a seat in the summer of 1954, taking the oath of office in January of 1955; and

WHEREAS, Representative Stewart stood election on the next twenty-two (22) ballots every two (2) years, sometimes being challenged for the seat, but always winning re-election; he served the next forty-four (44) years and did not retire until 1999, a record still standing in the House of Representatives; and during his last session in the House, while carrying the thick black three-ring binders of daily legislative materials he so loved, he was offered a laptop computer to use, whereupon he politely declined the laptop and said it was time to retire; and

WHEREAS, Representative Stewart served as a loyal and faithful Democratic member under eight (8) different governors of both parties – Orval Faubus, Winthrop Rockefeller, Dale Bumpers, David Pryor, Bill Clinton, Frank White, Jim Guy Tucker, and Mike Huckabee; served along with nineteen (19) different representatives and fourteen (14) different senators; and as a fixture on the Revenue and Taxation Committee, watched out for Arkansas’s taxpayers, saying, “It took me a while to get enough seniority to get on Revenue & Tax and once there I wasn’t going to get off that powerful committee”; and

WHEREAS, Representative Stewart estimated he wore out twenty (20) to twenty-five (25) automobiles and logged countless miles from Fayetteville to Little Rock on legislative business; and he is credited for helping to save Carnall Hall, and helping others save Old Main, on the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville campus,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives remember Representative Charlie Stewart and honor his commitment and contributions to the State of Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the individual members of the House of

Representatives offer sincere condolences to the family of Representative Charlie Stewart, and that upon adoption of the resolution, an appropriate copy shall be provided to the family of Representative Stewart by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.