

By: Senators C. Tucker, B. Ballinger, Beckham, Bledsoe, Caldwell, L. Chesterfield, A. Clark, B. Davis, J. Dismang, L. Eads, Elliott, J. English, Flippo, S. Flowers, T. Garner, Gilmore, K. Hammer, J. Hendren, Hester, Hickey, Hill, K. Ingram, Irvin, B. Johnson, M. Johnson, G. Leding, M. Pitsch, Rapert, Rice, B. Sample, G. Stubblefield, J. Sturch, D. Sullivan, Teague, D. Wallace

By: Representatives L. Fite, Dalby, Cozart, Lundstrum, Wing, Eaves, Womack, Christiansen, McCullough, Hudson, A. Collins, Scott, V. Flowers, Clowney, Godfrey, F. Allen, Love, K. Ferguson, D. Ferguson, M. Hodges, Richardson, Murdock, Ennett, Springer, Perry, Fielding, D. Garner, Magie, Nicks, D. Whitaker, J. Mayberry

## **SENATE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

TO REMEMBER SENATOR JIM ARGUE AND TO RECOGNIZE HIS  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND HIS LOCAL  
COMMUNITY.

### **Subtitle**

TO REMEMBER SENATOR JIM ARGUE AND TO  
RECOGNIZE HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE  
OF ARKANSAS AND HIS LOCAL COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, James B. Argue Jr. was born on August 19, 1951, in Carthage, Texas, and died on May 3, 2018, in Little Rock, Arkansas, after a brief illness at sixty-six (66) years of age; and

WHEREAS, he was known as "Jim" and was the son of Ann Bourland Argue and Reverend James B. Argue Sr., a longtime pastor of the church Jim joined at age fourteen (14) and was a member of until his death, Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church in Little Rock; and

WHEREAS, Jim attended Little Rock public schools, graduated from Hall High School, and received a bachelor's degree in history and political science from Hendrix College in 1973; and



WHEREAS, Jim embarked on a career in finance and investment after college graduation before joining the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas as president in 1981, a position he held for thirty-five (35) years and a role that capitalized on his fundraising skills and investment savvy, leading to the organization's increasing its assets from sixty-seven thousand dollars (\$67,000) to over one hundred sixty-four million dollars (\$164,000,000) under his leadership; and

WHEREAS, Jim grew the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas into one (1) of the largest foundations for United Methodist churches in the United States and gave the foundation financial security, efforts that are greatly appreciated by the United Methodist church he so dearly loved; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, frustrated by the operation of state government, he was persuaded to run for the House of Representatives by his close friends; and

WHEREAS, Representative Argue served in the House of Representatives until 1996 when he was elected to the Senate, where he served until 2006, including as Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, and capped his political career with service as President Pro Tempore of the Senate in 2005 and 2006; and

WHEREAS, Senator Argue was revered for his intellect and leadership on education during his time in the legislature and was a key architect and forceful negotiator in the state's response to the Arkansas Supreme Court decision that required the education system in Arkansas to be reformed and improved, and his legacy lies in the enhancement of the standards and funding of the state's public education system; and

WHEREAS, always known as a thoughtful voice in the legislature, he sought to work across the aisle to make government work, and in 1997, the Center for Policy Alternatives in Washington, D.C., named Senator Argue a Flemming Fellow, one (1) of many awards and honors throughout the years that include a National Humanitarian Award by Just Communities of Central

Arkansas, the renaming of the Leadership Greater Little Rock Distinguished Leadership Award in his name, the Lincoln Humanitarian Award from the Arkansas Rice Depot, the Friend of Children Award from Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, and the Hendrix College Ethel K. Millar Award for Religious and Social Awareness and Distinguished Alumni Award; and

WHEREAS, Senator Argue served on the boards of Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, the Arkansas Travelers Baseball Club, the Arkansas Historical Association, St. Vincent Medical Center, and the National Conference for Community and Justice; served as a director of the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory in Austin, Texas, and as an advisory board member of the Southern Regional Education Board in Atlanta, Georgia; and loved his family, baseball, and his friends, especially his best friends Bill Mann and Dickie Lunsford; and

WHEREAS, Senator Argue is survived by his loving wife Elise and daughters Sarah Argue and Emily Stotts, sons-in-law Matthew Anderson and Jeff Stotts, and grandchildren Charlotte and Anderson Stotts,

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the individual members of the Senate remember Senator Jim Argue and recognize his enormous contributions to the State of Arkansas and his local community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy be provided to Elise Argue and family by the Secretary of the Senate.