

By: Representative Lundstrum

HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

TO REMEMBER BRENDA JOYCE BLAGG AND TO HONOR HER
DEDICATION TO JOURNALISM, THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
ACT OF 1967 IN ARKANSAS, AND THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

Subtitle

TO REMEMBER BRENDA JOYCE BLAGG AND TO
HONOR HER DEDICATION TO JOURNALISM, THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT OF 1967, AND
THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, Brenda Joyce Blagg of Fayetteville, Arkansas, died on December 11, 2022, at the age of seventy-five (75), and was a well-known Arkansas journalist and defender of the Freedom of Information Act of 1967; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Blagg, was born, May 3, 1947, and as a native of Newport, Arkansas, came to the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville to study journalism and rose to the editorship of the Arkansas Traveler, the campus newspaper; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Blagg, upon graduation, joined the Springdale News and began a lengthy career as a journalist; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Ms. Blagg began a political column, "Between The Lines," which ran until her health declined in October 2022 and this column was one of the longest, continuous weekly columns in the state's modern history; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Blagg was also a frequent guest journalist on the Arkansas



Educational Television Network's "Arkansas Week", for decades; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Blagg took a great interest in the Northwest Arkansas Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and its subsequent scholarship fundraiser variety show, "Gridiron", a yearly theatrical production spoofing the past year's political leaders, events, and general politics of the state; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Blagg played a well-known Ozark hill woman, Letitia Mae Stufflebeam, in these standup comedy sketches spoofing the political themes of the day, which are still playing on YouTube channels today; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Blagg was also known as a quiet and serious soul, attending to the public needs of the state and region and she is credited by many for inspiring others, especially young women to pursue careers in journalism and to uphold the Freedom of Information Act of 1967,

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the House of Representatives remember Brenda Joyce Blagg and honor her life and contributions to the State of Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be provided to Ms. Blagg's family by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.