

By: Representative M. Shepherd

HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING FINOS B. "BUDDY" JOHNSON, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PARLIAMENTARIAN, UPON HIS RETIREMENT AND COMMENDING HIM FOR HIS THIRTY-EIGHTY YEARS OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

Subtitle

CONGRATULATING FINOS B. "BUDDY" JOHNSON, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PARLIAMENTARIAN, UPON HIS RETIREMENT AND COMMENDING HIM FOR HIS THIRTY-EIGHTY YEARS OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, Mr. Finos B. "Buddy" Johnson, a native of Ashdown, Arkansas, began his career with the House of Representatives on May 30, 1985, and after thirty-eight (38) years will retire on June 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Buddy Johnson graduated from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville with a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and worked at several news organizations in the State of Arkansas prior to starting his tenure with the House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, Buddy Johnson's first position with the House of Representatives was as the Information Director, and then in 1999, Buddy was promoted to the position of Coordinator of Legislative Services; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as the Coordinator of Legislative Services, Buddy Johnson became well versed in parliamentary procedures and the Rules of



the House of Representatives and became a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians and the American Institute of Parliamentarians; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2012, Buddy Johnson was promoted to the position of House of Representatives Parliamentarian; and

WHEREAS, since 2014 Buddy Johnson has been an active member of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries (ASLCS) of the National Conference of State Legislatures; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure with the ASLCS, Buddy served as the Chair of the Bylaws and Standing Orders Committee and the Chair of the Inside the Legislative Process Committee and was instrumental in hosting the successful 2022 Annual ASLCS Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Buddy Johnson has an extensive resume, but what makes Buddy excel in his role are the intangible qualities that come so naturally to him, such as his willingness to collaborate, thoughtful responses, measured approach to crises that arise, impartiality, and utmost professionalism; and

WHEREAS, during Buddy Johnson's tenure as parliamentarian, he has worked with four (4) different Speakers of the House of Representatives and six (6) General Assemblies and served each member during these past eleven (11) years in a manner that exemplifies his commitment to public service; and

WHEREAS, Buddy Johnson has forged strong relationships and friendships with not only his House of Representatives colleagues, but also with colleagues from the Senate and the Bureau of Legislative Research; and

WHEREAS, while Buddy Johnson will be greatly missed by the General Assembly, his retirement will allow him to spend more time with his wife Elizabeth and his two (2) sons Findley and Layet; and

WHEREAS, Steve Cook, the Arkansas Senate Parliamentarian stated "I greatly appreciate the working relationship I have experienced with Buddy Johnson. He restored a collaborative spirit of working together with the

Senate and the Bureau of Legislative Research that benefitted the legislative process. The House of Representatives is a better place thanks to Buddy's humility and professionalism."; and

WHEREAS, Speaker of the House of Representatives Matthew Shepherd stated "Buddy Johnson has been an invaluable part of the House staff. In addition to assisting in the orderly operation of the House during regular, special, and fiscal sessions, he has provided counsel in navigating Constitutional questions, procedural issues, and in the House conducting business during the midst of a global pandemic. His impact on the House is tremendous and he will be greatly missed.",

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 commend Finos B. "Buddy" Johnson for his distinguished service to the State of Arkansas and the legislative branch of government, thank him for his countless contributions, and wish him all the best in his retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, upon adoption, the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives provide a copy of this resolution to Buddy Johnson.