

By: Senators Hickey, Hester, J. Boyd, J. Bryant, Caldwell, L. Chesterfield, A. Clark, Crowell, B. Davis, Dees, J. Dismang, J. Dotson, J. English, Flippo, S. Flowers, Gilmore, K. Hammer, Hill, Irvin, B. Johnson, M. Johnson, B. King, G. Leding, F. Love, M. McKee, R. Murdock, J. Payton, C. Penzo, J. Petty, Rice, Stone, G. Stubblefield, D. Sullivan, C. Tucker, D. Wallace

SENATE RESOLUTION

CONGRATULATING CHARLES STEVEN “STEVE” COOK, SENATE PARLIAMENTARIAN, UPON HIS RETIREMENT AND COMMENDING HIM FOR HIS THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SENATE AND FORTY-FOUR YEARS OF CONTRIBUTION TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

Subtitle

CONGRATULATING CHARLES STEVEN “STEVE” COOK, SENATE PARLIAMENTARIAN, UPON HIS RETIREMENT AND COMMENDING HIM FOR HIS THIRTY-EIGHT YEARS OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SENATE AND FORTY-FOUR YEARS OF CONTRIBUTION TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, Mr. Charles Steven “Steve” Cook, a native of Arkansas, began his career with the Senate in 1985 and after thirty-eight (38) years will retire; and

WHEREAS, Steve Cook earned his Bachelor’s degrees in History and Political Science from Arkansas Tech University and his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville; and

WHEREAS, prior to joining the Senate in 1985, Steve Cook began his career working in the legislative branch of government on September 4, 1979,



as a bill drafter and committee staff analyst for the Bureau of Legislative Research; and

WHEREAS, upon moving to the Senate, Steve Cook was hired to be the Assistant Chief of Staff and then became the Senate's Chief Counsel and Parliamentarian; and

WHEREAS, Steve Cook has witnessed the evolution of the Senate including the era of "Max and Knox," the "Brotherhood," term limits, and a change in majority party control from Democratic to Republican for the first time since Reconstruction; and

WHEREAS, Steve Cook has been a counselor, mentor, confidant, and friend to the senators and Senate staff while preserving the standard of his role in the Senate and protecting the legislative institution as a whole; and

WHEREAS, during Steve Cook's tenure with the Senate, he has worked with twenty-one (21) different Presidents Pro Tempore of the Senate and twenty-two (22) General Assemblies and served each member during these past thirty-eight (38) years in a manner that exemplifies his commitment to public service; and

WHEREAS, Steve Cook is admired and respected by the senators for his discretion, nonpartisanship, historical knowledge of the Senate, humor, kindness, insight, and legal ability; and

WHEREAS, while Steve Cook will be greatly missed by the General Assembly, his retirement will allow him to spend more time with his wife Mary Kaye McKinney, his daughter Melanie Ann Higgins, and his two (2) grandsons Jay and Palmer; and

WHEREAS, Steve Cook has been integral in forging a strong working relationship between the House of Representatives and the Bureau of Legislative Research and has done so to ensure a cohesive General Assembly that works towards a common goal; and

WHEREAS, Marty Garrity, the Director of the Bureau of Legislative

Research, stated "Steve has been such a valuable resource for me and I know that I would not be where I am without him. Steve has become more than just a colleague but is a true friend and I am so grateful for his support. The Bureau of Legislative Research and the Senate are a much better place because of Steve."; and

WHEREAS, Senator Bart Hester, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, stated "Steve's unique personality has been a gift to the Senate. He has the ability to navigate the many personalities within the Senate and in doing so has fostered a unequivocal level of trust among the senators year after year. His dependable and unwavering knowledge of the Senate procedures and rules of the uppermost chamber is an immeasurable value to the Senate and the State of Arkansas",

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the Senate commend Charles Steven "Steve" Cook 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 Secretary of the Senate provide a copy of this resolution to Steve Cook.