

By: Senator M. Johnson

SENATE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE RANDY HANKINS, WHOSE RADIO AND
TELEVISION NAME IS CRAIG O'NEILL, FOR HIS MANY YEARS
IN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING.

Subtitle

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WHEREAS, Randy Hankins, whose radio and television name is Craig O'Neill, was born to Earnest Hankins and Judy Merritt Hankins in the Old Saint Vincent Hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas, on October 19, 1950, and is the oldest of four (4) children; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from Little Rock Central High School in 1968, Craig enrolled at Arkansas State University at Jonesboro; and

WHEREAS, while Craig was attending Arkansas State University, he enrolled in the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) for two (2) years; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, he received a Bachelor of Science degree from Arkansas State University in Radio/Television Journalism; and

WHEREAS, prior to graduating from Arkansas State University, Craig



married Ruth Jane Fryer, an artist, in 1971, and the couple has two children, Abby Hankins Kirby and Thomas Hankins; and

WHEREAS, his radio career began in Jonesboro when he accepted a job at a Jonesboro radio station, KBTM; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Craig began working in broadcasting and advertising sales at KARN in Little Rock; and

WHEREAS, the program director at KARN felt that the name Craig O'Neill had a better ring to it than Randy Hankins did, so Randy became known as Craig O'Neill; and

WHEREAS, Craig joined the staff of KLAZ in the winter of 1978 and began making his famous prank telephone calls; and

WHEREAS, his first prank telephone call was to Governor David Pryor and his opponent in the United States Senatorial race, Jim Guy Tucker. Craig posed as President Jimmy Carter in wishing both Governor Pryor and Mr. Tucker luck in their upcoming election; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, Craig left the staff of KLAZ and began working at KKYK, becoming the number one disc jockey in Little Rock. During his career at KKYK, he continued to make prank telephone calls and perfected his impersonation of President Ronald Reagan; and

WHEREAS, Craig traveled to Hollywood, California, on several occasions and appeared in a 1987 movie that was made in Arkansas, titled "Pass the Ammo"; and

WHEREAS, after ten (10) years at KKYK, Craig moved to neighboring radio station KURB in 1991; and

WHEREAS, in 1991, two (2) days before the Arkansas Razorbacks played the Texas Longhorns in Little Rock, as the morning DJ at KURB, Craig called the University of Texas athletic department to explain to them how a

groundskeeper at War Memorial Stadium added an extra "S" to Texas; and

WHEREAS, Craig became the stadium announcer for all home football games for the Arkansas Razorbacks in 1997 and started the famous "That's another Arkansas Razorback – First Down!"; and

WHEREAS, Craig worked at KURB, which was known as B98.5, until December 1999. While at KURB, he helped charities raise money and estimates he has worked at more than two thousand (2,000) fundraisers for charity. He is well known for freely giving of himself, his talent, and his time to charitable causes; and

WHEREAS, on January 1, 2000, Craig made the move from radio to television, going from KURB to KTHV Channel-11 as the Sports Director for KTHV. He jokes that to get the job at KTHV he parked at the front door of their station for months asking to be put on television; and

WHEREAS, Craig transferred from sports director to evening news anchor in 2008; and

WHEREAS, Craig was famous for his line "Can I get a Hogalleulah?" during his TV interviews; and

WHEREAS, after fifty (50) years of being in radio and television, his last broadcast on KTHV was the 10:00 p.m. newscast on December 29, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Craig is an enthusiastic supporter of early childhood reading and regularly reads to school-age children. When coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) closed down daycare centers and schools, he switched his Reading Road Trip to a Virtual Road Trip; and

WHEREAS, after retiring from television, Craig returned to radio in February 2024 as a weekly contributor to the 103.7 "The Buzz" radio broadcast; and

WHEREAS, in an Arkansas Democrat-Gazette newspaper article, Craig said,

“I’ve learned the true power of stories. We tend to think it’s about me, me, me, but in the last 24 years, I’ve learned that it’s about you, you, you, you. I’ve been lucky to collaborate and share stories about you”; and

WHEREAS, the archival collection of Randy Hankins is officially known as the Craig O’Neill Collection at the University of Central Arkansas Archives. He is much better known as Craig O’Neill than Randy Hankins, so it is in everyone’s best interest for the collection’s name to carry his radio and television moniker,

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the Senate recognize and congratulate Randy Hankins, also known as Craig O’Neill, on his many years in both radio and television broadcasting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, a copy be transmitted to Randy Hankins by the Secretary of the Senate.