

By: Representative M. McElroy

## HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

TO HONOR THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF G. ERNEST  
CUNNINGHAM.

### Subtitle

TO HONOR THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF G.  
ERNEST CUNNINGHAM.

WHEREAS, G. Ernest Cunningham, former Speaker of the Arkansas House of Representatives and long-serving member of the General Assembly, died on June 11, 2024, in Little Rock, Arkansas, at eighty-seven (87) years of age; and

WHEREAS, G. Ernest Cunningham grew up in Barton, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, G. Ernest Cunningham attended the University of Arkansas where he:

- (1) Was a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity, serving a term as president; and
- (2) Graduated with a degree in accounting in 1960; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from the University of Arkansas, G. Ernest Cunningham returned to Helena, where he worked for Cunningham, Inc. for many years, first with his father, Gordon, and later with his brother, Joe Tom; and

WHEREAS, G. Ernest Cunningham represented Helena-West Helena and part of eastern Arkansas in the Arkansas House of Representatives from 1969 to 1999; and



WHEREAS, after he left the Arkansas House of Representatives, G. Ernest Cunningham was a lobbyist for clients that included Arkansas Health Care Association, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., and Arkansans for Better Schools; and

WHEREAS, G. Ernest Cunningham spent many hours working to improve the quality of life for everyone in Helena, Phillips County, and the Delta; and

WHEREAS, G. Ernest Cunningham was instrumental in the development of the:

- (1) Helena-West Helena-Phillips County Port Authority;
- (2) Helena River Park;
- (3) Delta Cultural Center;
- (3) Civil War Trail, as a member of the Arkansas Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission;
- (4) KIPP Delta Public Schools; and
- (5) Restoration of several historic sites in Helena; and

WHEREAS, G. Ernest Cunningham received many honors, including induction into the Arkansas Tourism Hall of Fame, the Phillips County Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year, and the Rotary Paul Harris Fellow; and

WHEREAS, G. Ernest Cunningham is survived by his wife Cathy Cunningham, his two (2) sons Cotter Cunningham (Edie Rogat) and Baker Cunningham (Ashley Cunningham), and five (5) grandchildren,

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 express sincere condolences to the family of G. Ernest Cunningham and commend his contributions to Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution shall be provided to the family of G. Ernest Cunningham by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.