

By: Representative J. Moore

HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

TO REMEMBER FORMER SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES BENNY PETRUS FOR HIS SERVICE TO HIS
COMMUNITY AND TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

Subtitle

TO REMEMBER FORMER SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES BENNY PETRUS FOR HIS
SERVICE TO HIS COMMUNITY AND TO THE
STATE OF ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, former Speaker of the House of Representatives Benny Charles Petrus, formerly of Stuttgart, Arkansas, passed away Friday, May 17, 2024, at the age of sixty-seven (67); and

WHEREAS, former Speaker Petrus was born November 23, 1956, in Stuttgart, to Bernard and Earline Petrus; and

WHEREAS, former Speaker Petrus lived in Stuttgart his entire life and was a 1975 graduate of Stuttgart High School; and

WHEREAS, former Speaker Petrus attended the University of Central Arkansas in Conway and became a successful businessman, owning several car dealerships in Stuttgart, Arkansas, owning several farms and other businesses, and serving as President and Chief Executive Officer of Adams Fertilizer Equipment Company in DeWitt, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, former Speaker Petrus's life was a family affair, reflected in



the fact that he started in the car business with his dad, B.J., and his brother, Steve, and that later his wife, Tammy, and brother, Dwayne, joined the business; and

WHEREAS, former Speaker Petrus's son, Justin, stepped into the family business after graduating from college, and former Speaker Petrus loved farming and formed a successful farming operation with his son, Jonathan, because everyday life for former Speaker Petrus involved all family members; and

WHEREAS, former Speaker Petrus served in the House of Representatives from 2002 through 2009 and served as Speaker of the House of Representatives during 2007 through 2009; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, former Speaker Petrus was selected to become a board member for Summit Utilities, and he also served on the board of the Stuttgart branch of the Baptist Hospital Foundation; and

WHEREAS, former Speaker Petrus was an avid fisherman and hunter, and regularly gathered with friends for annual hunting trips; and

WHEREAS, former Representative Marvin Childers recalled of his time working with former Speaker Petrus in the House of Representatives that "Benny . . . just loved helping people and he was interested in anything agriculture . . . He took the lead when it came to funding for the community college at Stuttgart . . . education was important to him . . . [and] Benny worked across the aisle [in the House of Representatives] . . . he didn't care whether you were a Democrat, Republican, or independent, as long as you would do the right thing"; and

WHEREAS, former Speaker Petrus is survived by his wife, Tammy Petrus, and his two sons, Jonathan and Justin Petrus, all of Stuttgart,

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the House of Representatives remember former Speaker of the House Benny Petrus for his service to his community and to the State of Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be provided to the family of former Speaker Petrus.