

By: Senator K. Hammer

## SENATE RESOLUTION

TO HONOR RETIRED DIRECTOR OF THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LORIE TUDOR FOR HER FORTY-ONE YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT AND TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND TO CONGRATULATE HER ON HER RETIREMENT.

### Subtitle

TO HONOR RETIRED DIRECTOR OF THE ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LORIE TUDOR FOR HER FORTY-ONE YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE DEPARTMENT AND TO THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND TO CONGRATULATE HER ON HER RETIREMENT.

WHEREAS, Director of the Arkansas Department of Transportation Lorie Tudor retired effective January 10, 2025, after forty-one (41) years of service to the department; and

WHEREAS, Lorie Tudor began work with the department in 1981 as a clerk typist, and after fourteen (14) years of service left to pursue a degree in engineering, which she obtained in 1997 from the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Lorie Tudor returned to the department in 1998 as a civil engineer, then was promoted in 2014 to Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer of the department; and

WHEREAS, Lorie Tudor became the department's first female director in



March 2020 during two (2) unusually severe challenges presented by the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and the emergency closure of the Hernando de Soto Bridge on Interstate 40 traversing the Mississippi River due to the discovery of a dangerous structural fracture; and

WHEREAS, during Lorie Tudor's leadership of the department, the citizens of the State of Arkansas voted for a temporary half-cent (\$.005) sales tax to provide a stable and reliable source of revenue for the department; and

WHEREAS, Lorie Tudor helped guide to successful completion the Connecting Arkansas Program, which encompassed thirty-one (31) state highway construction projects, helping to modernize Arkansas's transportation system; and

WHEREAS, under Lorie Tudor's leadership, the department secured funding for and took steps to begin the construction of the ARDOT Fallen Worker Memorial, which, according to Tudor, "emphasizes how thankful we are for [department] workers and Arkansas Highway Police [Division] officers who paid the ultimate price"; and

WHEREAS, highlights and accomplishments of Lorie Tudor's career at the department include:

(1) Overseeing the implementation of the Guidehouse Efficiency Review recommendations, helping to improve the department's operational effectiveness and transparency;

(2) Initiating and championing safety programs to enhance the well-being of department employees and contractors;

(3) Leading a reorganization of the department designed to increase efficiency and responsiveness to the transportation needs of the State of Arkansas;

(4) Helping to launch a new departmental strategic plan to provide a clear roadmap for the department's future;

(5) Guiding the department's successful launch of the construction manager-general contractor project delivery method that allowed designers and contractors to work together from initiation to completion of

projects;

(6) Prioritizing partnerships with contractors and communities in order to increase efficiency, cohesion, and innovation; and

(7) Inspiring and empowering women to pursue careers in transportation and engineering; and

WHEREAS, Lorie Tudor served as President of the Southeast Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Chair of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' Committee on Funding and Finance, and Board President of the State Board for Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors; and

WHEREAS, Lorie Tudor was inducted into the Arkansas Academy of Civil Engineering at the University of Arkansas in 2018 and was the recipient of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' Alfred E. Johnson Achievement Award in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Lorie Tudor received the Associated General Contractors of Arkansas's Skill, Integrity, Responsibility Award, which is the highest honor given to a person outside of the Associated General Contractors of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, former State Highway Commission Chair Alec Farmer said of Lorie Tudor, "She has been a tireless and highly effective leader for the department. Her hard work and all-out dedication will pay off for many years to come"; and

WHEREAS, Lorie Tudor said of her time at the Arkansas Department of Transportation, "I've had a great career . . . I've been very fortunate to have worked with a wonderful group of hardworking individuals who all understand the value and importance of serving the people of Arkansas",

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the Senate honor retired Director of the Arkansas Department of Transportation Lorie Tudor for her forty-one (41) years of service to the department and to the people of the State of Arkansas, and congratulate her on her retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be presented to Lorie Tudor by the Secretary of the Senate.