

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

## SENATE RESOLUTION

TO HONOR SYLVIA ANN HINDSMAN CORNWELL FOR HER  
EXEMPLARY, DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE SENATE AND TO THE  
STATE OF ARKANSAS.

### Subtitle

TO HONOR SYLVIA ANN HINDSMAN CORNWELL  
FOR HER EXEMPLARY, DEDICATED SERVICE TO  
THE SENATE AND TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, in a remote corner in a basement office at the Arkansas Capitol, an entire wall is lined with shelves filled with Senate journals bound in red leather that contain an accurate, official, and complete history of Senate activity, and every volume of the past forty-five (45) years has been compiled by Sylvia Ann Hindsman Cornwell and her staff; and

WHEREAS, Ann worked with one hundred ninety-three (193) senators over the course of her career; and

WHEREAS, over those forty-five (45) years, Ann was the leader in modernizing the Senate journal and all official Senate records from ink and paper to electronic and digital; and

WHEREAS, Ann is the first female to be Secretary of the Senate and to serve as its director; and



WHEREAS, Ann's achievements were recognized on a national level when in 2002 she was named president of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries; and

WHEREAS, Ann has worked for the Senate from the Seventy-Third General Assembly in 1981 through the Ninety-Fifth General Assembly in 2025 for a total of twenty-three (23) General Assemblies; and

WHEREAS, Ann began her career at the Senate in 1981 as the journal clerk, became the assistant Secretary of the Senate during the 1991 regular session, served as the assistant secretary and fiscal officer of the Senate during the 1993 regular session, and became the full-time Secretary and fiscal officer of the Senate during the 1995 regular session; and

WHEREAS, Ann became Secretary of the Senate and coordinator of legislative services during the 2007 regular session and has been serving as the director and Secretary of the Senate since the 2009 regular session; and

WHEREAS, Ann has served Arkansas outside of her Senate duties, devoting her expertise and time to several endeavors such as the Mansion Advisory Council, the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, the Capitol Arts and Grounds Commission, and the Junior League of North Little Rock as President of the Sustainers; and

WHEREAS, Ann received the National Conference of State Legislatures 2011 Legislative Staff Achievement Award from the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries, the American Legislative Exchange Council 2008 Volunteer of the Year Award, and other awards for her accomplishments and outstanding leadership during her tenure as president of the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries and throughout her career; and

WHEREAS, Ann is a 2011 graduate of the Henry Toll Fellowship Program sponsored by the Conference of State Governments and served on the CSG Annual Meeting Committee and the Suggested State Legislation Committee, and she was active with the Southern Legislative Council's Legislative Service Agency

Directors, serving as a member of the Southern Legislative Conference Host Committee; and

WHEREAS, Ann is active with the National Conference of State Legislatures and its staff section, the American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries, and twice in her career, Ann served on the Executive Committee of NCSL and the NCSL Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee, and she is a past member of the Mason's Manual Revision Commission, where she served two (2) terms totaling twenty (20) years; and

WHEREAS, throughout the decades, Ann has ensured that senators and staff were always promptly and adequately reimbursed for millions of airline miles, thousands of hotel stays, and countless meals when they made trips to attend NCSL, SLC, ALEC, and other conferences; and

WHEREAS, Ann, a native of Russellville, is a loving mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, a loving wife of her favorite dance partner, the late Gilbert Cornwell, and a loving daughter of Sam and Mary Lou Hindsman, who both were groundbreaking sportsmen; and

WHEREAS, Ann's enthusiastic love of all sports, especially the Arkansas Razorbacks, is a well-known fact of life at stadiums and arenas across Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, early in her career, Ann learned from Secretary of the Senate Lee Reaves and Secretary Hal Moody, and later worked with the Senate's permanent staff of Bill Lancaster and Bill Goodman, chiefs of staff; Steve Cook and Philip Treat, counsels; Billy Tarpley, Bill Darling, and John Reed, information officers; William Parks and Lee Pippins, properties officers; Eileen Pollock, Debbie Daniels, Heather Kizer, Tonya Thomas, Mary Jacks, Tammy Young, Janice Nelson, Anna Pridmore, and Rebecca Barfield, administrative assistants; Melissa Mylym and Lesley Rogers, directors of constituent services; Shannon Ahlbrandt, Estella Smith, Sandy Furrer, Pat Williams, Barrett Dudley, Eva McKinney, and Leigh Ann Golden-Smith, constituent services advisors; Phyllis Hearne, Katie Drummond, Heather Bailey, Ann Scott, Angie Clingmon-Reed, and Tamara Lewis, fiscal officers;

Cindy Herron, assistant information officer; Rob Hatfield, production manager and videographer; and with Sabrina Lewellen, who like Ann has done some of everything and is now deputy director and assistant secretary; and

WHEREAS, Ann worked with a veritable “Who’s Who” of senators in Arkansas government, beginning in the 1980s when she worked with “Max and Knox,” more formally known as Max Howell and Knox Nelson; during the 1990s when she worked with the “Young Golfers,” led by Mike Beebe, Morrill Harriman, Bill Gwatney, David Malone, Jay Bradford, and Jon Fitch; and during the early 2000s when she worked with the “Brotherhood” led by Bob Johnson, Steve Faris, Randy Laverty, Jerry Bookout, Shawn Womack, and Gilbert Baker; and

WHEREAS, Ann served during the terms of Governors Bill Clinton, Frank White, Jim Guy Tucker, Mike Huckabee, Mike Beebe, Asa Hutchinson, and Sarah Huckabee Sanders; and

WHEREAS, Ann advised lieutenant governors as they presided over the Senate: Winston Bryant, Jim Guy Tucker, Mike Huckabee, Winthrop P. Rockefeller, Bill Halter, Mark Darr, Tim Griffin, and Leslie Rutledge; and

WHEREAS, Ann worked with senators who served as president pro tempore: Ben Allen, Bill Moore, John Bearden, Paul Benham, Nick Wilson, Bud Canada, Jerry Bookout, Jerry Jewell, Stanley Russ, Wayne Dowd, Jay Bradford, Mike Beebe, Jim Hill, Jim Argue, Jack Critcher, Bob Johnson, Paul Bookout, Michael Lamoureux, Jonathan Dismang, Jim Hendren, Jimmy Hickey, Jr., and Bart Hester; and

WHEREAS, Ann worked closely with leadership at the Bureau of Legislative Research, including Larry Holifield and Jim Schratz and Bureau of Legislative Research directors Marcus Halbrook, Kern Treat, Tony Minicozzi, David Ferguson, and Marty Garrity; leadership at Legislative Audit, including Charles L. Robinson, Roger Norman, and Kevin White; and leadership at the House of Representatives, including Chief Clerks Jo Renshaw and Sherri Stacks, parliamentarians Tim Massanelli, Buddy Johnson, and John Vines, and chiefs of staff Bill Stovall and Roy Ragland; and

WHEREAS, Ann developed strong relationships with senators who moved on to other positions throughout state and federal government: Vic Snyder and Mike Ross to Congress; Phil Wyrick, Jack Gibson, Jon Fitch and Steve Bryles, directors of Livestock and Poultry; Jay Bradford, insurance commissioner; Bruce Holland, director of Livestock and Poultry and executive director of the Natural Resources Commission; Johnny Key, education commissioner; George Hopkins, director of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System; Steve Faris, member of the Lottery Commission; Cliff Hoofman, appointed to the Supreme Court, and Shawn Womack, elected to the Supreme Court; Gunner DeLay, circuit judge; Bobby Glover, member of the Board of Corrections; Jim Luker, director of the Health Services Permit Agency; Jim Scott, director of the Bureau of Standards; Bill Gwatney, chairman of the Arkansas Democratic Party; and Doyle Webb, chairman of the Arkansas Republican Party; and

WHEREAS, Ann managed the delicate responsibility of being the boss of session staff who were spouses of senators, such as Hope Bell, Ann Benham, Gladys Watson, Juanita Moore, Nina Cassady, Linda Taylor, Candace Jeffries, Cynthia Jeffress, Rita Kinard, Peggy Roebuck, Artimeze Edwards, Nina Russ, Joan Cash, Sue Cooper, Ginger Cheatham, Deborah Wyatt, Vickie Critcher, Jo Lindsey, DeLona Williams, Emry Chesterfield, and Mandy Dismang; and

WHEREAS, Ann trained an expert and dedicated front line of workers who carried out chamber operations, including Marilyn Matthias, Carolyn Porter, Bettye Ruth Morris, Penny Wolf, Mary Chris Burrow, Lori Dowd, Mark Hudson, Sharon Parker, Quinton Smith, Sarah Agee, Shawn Key, Greg Bradford, Donna Myers, Missie Smith, and Jo Ann Drew; and

WHEREAS, Ann worked with and became friends with session staffers in the Journal Room, also known as "heaven," the Engrossing Room, the Bill Room, the Quiet Room kitchen, and the Page Desk: Sybil Gwatney, Jo Price, Linda Goss, Dee Milton, Anne Rolleigh, Nancy Harmon, Katie Drummond, Phyllis Hearne, Mary Allen, Jan Murphy, Cleo Mattox, Dottie Walker, Diane Hudson, Ruth Morley, Lynn Benham, Janet Tate, Deanne Welch, Stacia Epps, Martha Faulkner, Debbie Foster, Pat Barnett, Don Nelms, Joe Molinaro, Sharon Ursery, Beverly Moore, Ron Maxwell, Judy Trice, Barbara Johnston, Joan Ratton, Joyce Woodson, Imogene White, Rosemary Robinson, Connie Harkins, Judy Smithson,

Nancy Dunlap, Cynthia Hass, and Sallie Graves; as well as Billie Cornwell, who married a cousin of Ann's husband, Gilbert; Becky Kennedy, Ann's sister; Tommie Zwernemann, Ann's cousin; and Mary Lou Hindsman, Ann's mother; and

WHEREAS, for every legislative session, Ann recruited a gallant band of sergeants at arms, including J.R. Teague, Orlie Parker, Tom Miller, Leroy Boaz, Boots Herndon, Sam Konecny, Floyd Burns, Earl Bentley, Dan Nall, Ralph Shelby, Benny Finch, Ted Fotioo, Vince Bond, Alvernon Rogers, Frank Witherspoon, Fletcher Sullards, Joe Clements, Larry Lowe, and Coach Harold Steelman; and

WHEREAS, for forty-five (45) years, Ann Cornwell has been the heart and soul of the Senate because of her dedication to the institution and its processes, loyalty to the first branch of government, unmatched work ethic, affection for each senator, and support of Senate and legislative staff; and

WHEREAS, Ann Cornwell's tenure as Secretary of the Senate has included sixteen (16) regular sessions, eight (8) fiscal sessions, and twenty (20) extraordinary sessions of the General Assembly; she has left her unique imprint on the traditions, protocol, atmosphere, efficiency, and effectiveness of the Senate, and her contributions will be recorded in every future history of the chamber,

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the Senate honor Sylvia Ann Hindsman Cornwell for her exemplary, dedicated service to the Senate and to the State of Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be presented to Ann Cornwell, Director of the Senate and Secretary of the Senate, by the Assistant Secretary of the Senate and the Members of the Senate of the Ninety-Fifth General Assembly.