

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

## SENATE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF SENATOR LUTHER BOYD "LU"  
HARDIN AND IN RECOGNITION OF HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND TO HIS LOCAL COMMUNITY.

### Subtitle

IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF SENATOR LUTHER  
BOYD "LU" HARDIN AND IN RECOGNITION OF  
HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF  
ARKANSAS AND TO HIS LOCAL COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, former Senator Luther Boyd "Lu" Hardin, formerly of Maumelle, Arkansas, passed away on Monday, August 11, 2025, at the age of seventy-three (73); and

WHEREAS, Senator Hardin was born on September 16, 1951, in Searcy, Arkansas, to Luther S. Hardin and Chrystal Hardin; and

WHEREAS, Senator Hardin was raised in Searcy, Arkansas, where he developed a love for golf and politics, and where he played for the Searcy American Legion baseball team during their victory in the 1969 state championship; and

WHEREAS, Senator Hardin attended college at Arkansas Tech University, from which he graduated with high honors in 1973 after serving as President



of the Student Senate and as a member of the debate team, the Arkansas Tech University Wonder Boys golf team, and the All-Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference golf team; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, while at Arkansas Tech University, Senator Hardin met his wife, Mary Hardin, whom he married in 1975 and with whom he raised two (2) children, Scott and Mallory; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from college, Senator Hardin attended the University of Arkansas School of Law, from which he graduated in 1976; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from law school, Senator Hardin moved to Russellville, Arkansas, where he became a member of Bullock, Hardin and McCormick Law Firm, and where he began to teach as a professor of business at Arkansas Tech University, rising to the rank of fully tenured professor and being honored as Faculty Member of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Senator Hardin ran for office in the Senate, and served as a senator from 1983 to 1996, where he was a member of the Joint Budget Committee and where he chaired the Senate Committee on Education; and

WHEREAS, Senator Hardin mounted an election campaign for the United States Senate, finishing second in the general primary and narrowly losing the runoff election; and

WHEREAS, in January, 1997, Senator Hardin was appointed by Governor Mike Huckabee to the governor's cabinet as Director of the State Department of Higher Education, where Senator Hardin served for six (6) years and more than tripled the number of Academic Challenge Scholarships issued to Arkansans; and

WHEREAS, in 2002, Senator Hardin was selected by the Board of Trustees of the University of Central Arkansas to serve as the university's eighth president, serving in that role until 2008; and

WHEREAS, while serving as the president of the University of Central

Arkansas, Senator Hardin embarked on a number of successful initiatives to improve the university, including working with faculty to remove the university from the American Association of University Presidents censure list, launching a statewide marketing campaign, increasing enrollment at the university from eight thousand five hundred (8,500) students to thirteen thousand (13,000) students, successfully overseeing the elevation of the university from NCAA Division II athletics to NCAA Division I athletics, and securing funding for a new building for the College of Business; and

WHEREAS, Senator Hardin served as the president of Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Florida from 2009 until 2011, where he increased student enrollment, increased visibility for the university, and expanded and grew the campus and sports facilities; and

WHEREAS, Senator Hardin retired to Little Rock in 2012, where he spent time doting on his children and grandchildren and where he remained engaged in service to his community, such as his work to establish The Excel Center; and

WHEREAS, Senator Hardin is survived by his wife of fifty (50) years, Mary Hardin, by his two (2) children, Scott Hardin and Mallory Brooks, and his three (3) grandchildren,

NOW THEREFORE

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

THAT the Senate remember former Senator Luther Boyd "Lu" Hardin and recognize his many contributions to the State of Arkansas and to his local community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy be provided to Mary Hardin and family by the Secretary of the Senate.