

By: Senators M. Johnson, C. Tucker, F. Love

SENATE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

TO REMEMBER ATTORNEY JOHN GILL FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK, TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS,
AND TO THE PRACTICE OF LAW IN ARKANSAS.

Subtitle

TO REMEMBER ATTORNEY JOHN GILL FOR HIS
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF LITTLE
ROCK, TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, AND TO
THE PRACTICE OF LAW IN ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, John Purifoy Gill, of Little Rock, Arkansas, passed away on
Saturday, March 7, 2026; and

WHEREAS, John Gill was born on December 9, 1936, in Fort Smith,
Arkansas, to Georgia Belle Burnett Gill and Keener Purifoy Gill; and

WHEREAS, John Gill initially attended Hendrix College for undergraduate
studies before transferring to Vanderbilt University, where he was a member
of the Naval ROTC and where he earned both his undergraduate and law degrees;
and

WHEREAS, John Gill met the love of his life, Marjem Gill, while
attending Hendrix College, and John Gill and Marjem Gill were married on June
30, 1960; and

WHEREAS, following his graduation from Vanderbilt University Law
School, John Gill moved to Marine Corps Base Quantico, where he served first



as an infantry officer in the United States Marine Corps, and later as a member of the Naval Judge Advocate General's Corps, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel; and

WHEREAS, John Gill joined the Arkansas Bar in 1962 and built a distinguished legal career in Little Rock; and

WHEREAS, the legal accomplishments of John Gill include serving as a delegate to the 1969 Arkansas Constitutional Convention, as special counsel to the Governor for the proposed Arkansas Constitution Revision of 1996, on the faculty of the Arkansas College of Trial Advocacy, as a founding member of the Arkansas Supreme Court Committee on Rules of Civil Procedure, and as a member of the Arkansas Water Code Study Commission from 1981 to 1982; and

WHEREAS, John Gill served as President of the Arkansas Bar Association, as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, and was instrumental in adding the Attorney Oath of Office to the Arkansas Attorney's License; and

WHEREAS, John Gill was founder of Gill Ragon Owen, P.A., one of the largest law firms in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, John Gill was appointed by Governor Mike Beebe to serve on the State Parks, Recreation, and Travel Commission in 2011, where he proudly served for twelve (12) years; and

WHEREAS, John Gill was an avid supporter of Preserve Arkansas, and was awarded the Parker Westbrook Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2019; and

WHEREAS, John Gill had a lasting and significant impact on landmarks across Arkansas, including through strategic planning, fund raising, and renovations to the Little Rock Visitor Information Center at Historic Curran Hall and the Firehouse Hostel in MacArthur Park, and through the installations of the La Petite Roche plaque and historical marker at the Little Rock River Market, the glass sculpture "Straight Lines on a Round World" at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock, and the portrait of leading civil rights attorney Scipio Africanus Jones at the Scipio A.

Jones Post Office in Little Rock; and

WHEREAS, John Gill was an accomplished author, penning and publishing seven (7) books, including (4) books concerning his beloved Arkansas: "On the Courthouse Square in Arkansas", "Post Masters: Arkansas Post Office Art in the New Deal", "Open House: The Arkansas Governor's Mansion and Its Place in History", and "The Crossroads of Arkansas"; and

WHEREAS, John Gill brought together his intellectual and spiritual interests through a variety of activities, including his research and lectures on "The Trial of Jesus", founding the John and Marjem Gill Preaching Workshop, and endowing the John and Marjem Gill Lecture; and

WHEREAS, John Gill was an active member of First United Methodist Church in Little Rock, where he served as a trustee, organized the Bowen Sunday School Class, and held the roles of vice chairman and chairman of the Administrative Board; and

WHEREAS, John Gill is survived by his wife of nearly sixty-six (66) years, Marjem Gill, by his brother, George Gill, by his children, Elizabeth Gill Myers, Ward Gill, and David Gill, and by his seven (7) grandchildren and six (6) great grandchildren,

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the Senate remember John Purifoy Gill and recognize his many contributions to Little Rock, to the State of Arkansas, and to the practice of law in the State of Arkansas.

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