

By: Senator Hester

## SENATE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF LEGENDARY COLLEGE FOOTBALL  
COACH LOUIS LEO "LOU" HOLTZ FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT FAYETTEVILLE, THE STATE OF  
ARKANSAS, AND THE GAME OF FOOTBALL.

### Subtitle

IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF LEGENDARY  
COLLEGE FOOTBALL COACH LOUIS LEO "LOU"  
HOLTZ FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY  
OF ARKANSAS AT FAYETTEVILLE, THE STATE  
OF ARKANSAS, AND THE GAME OF FOOTBALL.

WHEREAS, legendary college football coach Louis Leo "Lou" Holtz, formerly associated with the University of Arkansas Razorbacks, passed away on March 4, 2026, at the age of eighty-nine (89); and

WHEREAS, Coach Holtz was born January 6, 1937, in Follansbee, West Virginia, the son of a bus driver, and rose from humble beginnings to become one of the most successful and motivational figures in the history of American college football; and

WHEREAS, after a collegiate playing career and early coaching stops, including a brief and challenging stint as head coach of the New York Jets of the National Football League, Coach Holtz arrived at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 1977 as the successor to legendary athletic director and former coach Frank Broyles; and



WHEREAS, during his seven (7) seasons as head football coach of the Arkansas Razorbacks from 1977 to 1983, Coach Holtz compiled an outstanding record of sixty (60) wins, twenty-one (21) losses, and two (2) ties, leading the Razorbacks to six (6) consecutive bowl games and four (4) Top 10 final rankings; and

WHEREAS, in his first season, the 1977 Razorbacks achieved an eleven and one (11-1) record and defeated the heavily favored number two (2) ranked Oklahoma Sooners thirty-one to six (31-6) in the 1978 Orange Bowl, one of the most memorable upsets in Arkansas football history; and

WHEREAS, Coach Holtz's team shared the Southwest Conference championship in 1979 with the Houston Cougars; and

WHEREAS, Coach Holtz consistently emphasized discipline, fundamentals, and mental toughness and instilled a winning culture that elevated the profile of Razorback football across the nation; and

WHEREAS, Coach Holtz was known for his fiery motivational style, his famous quotes such as "Do what's right, do the best you can, and show people you care," and his ability to get the absolute maximum effort from his players; and

WHEREAS, after leaving Arkansas, Coach Holtz went on to coach at the University of Minnesota; the University of Notre Dame du Lac, where he led the Fighting Irish to the 1988 national championship with a perfect twelve and zero (12-0) season; and the University of South Carolina, becoming the only coach in major college football history to lead six (6) different programs to bowl games and four (4) different programs to final Top 20 rankings; and

WHEREAS, Coach Holtz was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2008 and the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame in 1983 and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2020 in recognition of his lifetime achievements and positive influence on American sports and culture; and

WHEREAS, Coach Holtz was a devoted husband to his late wife Beth Barcus Holtz, who he was married to from 1961–2020; a loving father to four (4) children, Luanne, Lou "Skip", who also became a successful football coach, Kevin, and Elizabeth; and a proud grandfather; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life and career, Coach Holtz remained a friend to the Razorbacks, often speaking fondly of his time in Fayetteville and never picking against the Razorbacks; and

WHEREAS, Coach Holtz's impact on the University of Arkansas and the State of Arkansas extended far beyond the football field, inspiring generations of student-athletes, fans, and Arkansans with his emphasis on perseverance, character, and excellence; and

WHEREAS, Coach Holtz was a man of deep and abiding faith in Jesus Christ, which he credited as the foundation of his coaching philosophy and the source of his strength, character, and commitment to serving others throughout his life; and

WHEREAS, former players, colleagues, and fans across Arkansas and the nation have expressed profound gratitude for the leadership, discipline, and unforgettable memories he provided during his tenure as head coach of the Razorbacks,

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the Senate remember and honor legendary college football coach Lou Holtz for his outstanding contributions to the University of Arkansas Razorbacks, the State of Arkansas, and the sport of football.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Coach Lou Holtz by the Secretary of the Senate.