

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Second Extraordinary Session, 2003

SMR 12

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5 By: Senator J. Bookout
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8 **SENATE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

9 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF MR. WILLIAM ERNEST "BILL"
10 HOOK AND IN RECOGNITION OF HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS
11 TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND HIS LOCAL COMMUNITY.
12

13 **Subtitle**

14 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF MR. WILLIAM
15 ERNEST "BILL" HOOK AND IN RECOGNITION OF
16 HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF
17 ARKANSAS AND HIS LOCAL COMMUNITY.
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20 WHEREAS, Mr. William Ernest "Bill" Hook of Lake City, Arkansas, died on
21 Saturday, Dec. 13, 2003, at the age of seventy-nine (79); and
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23 WHEREAS, Mr. Hook was born in Little Rock, and grew up at Pleasant
24 Plains, Independence County, Arkansas, before his family acquired a farm near
25 Lake City, Arkansas; and
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27 WHEREAS, Mr. Hook served as the deputy sheriff for the Eastern District
28 of Craighead County, Arkansas, from 1959 to 1986, "elected" each term in a
29 popular straw vote and appointed by the sheriff of the county in a practice
30 dating back to the 1800s; and
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32 WHEREAS, Mr. Hook was known for his persistence in solving crime and
33 providing care and comfort to residents of the Eastern District; and
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35 WHEREAS, Mr. Hook served as a mentor to many young law enforcement
36 officers, helping to instill service to the community as a way of life; and



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2 WHEREAS, Mr. Hook resolved domestic disputes, drove traffic accident
3 victims to hospitals and investigated crimes on a daily basis, perfecting a
4 type of law enforcement known today as "community policing" decades before
5 the term came into popular use; and
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7 WHEREAS, Mr. Hook spent countless hours searching for drowning victims
8 and lost hunters and fishermen in the St. Francis River sunken lands; and
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10 WHEREAS, Mr. Hook was the only law enforcement officer many Arkansas
11 residents of Lake City, Monette, Black Oak, and Caraway saw on a regular
12 basis, practicing his profession with the common sense approach; and
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14 WHEREAS, Mr. Hook was a past recipient of the Jonesboro Exchange Club's
15 Police Officer of the Year award; and
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17 WHEREAS, the 1986 Fourth of July Picnic at Caraway was dedicated in Mr.
18 Hook's honor and the City of Lake City has honored him for establishing a
19 rescue unit; and
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21 WHEREAS, Mr. Hook was a member of the First Baptist Church of Monette,
22 serving the church family with his time, contributions, prayers, and
23 attendance; and
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25 WHEREAS, Mr. Hook was a charter member of the support organization for
26 the Arkansas Sheriffs' Association Boys Ranch near Batesville, a member of
27 the Masonic Blue Lodge No. 405 at Lake City, and a World War II veteran of
28 Army Air Corps who flew on some of the most dangerous bombing missions in the
29 European Theatre; and
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31 WHEREAS, Mr. Hook cared for three brothers who were deaf and blind
32 until their deaths, serving as an example of compassion and love for members
33 of his community; and
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35 WHEREAS, Mr. Hook was preceded in death by one son, Billy Don Hook; his
36 parents, Earl and Emma Hook; and four brothers; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Hook is survived by his wife, Reba Staggs Hook of Lake City; two sons, Gary Hook of Jones, Okla., and Mike Hook of Lake City; one sister, Zelma Carter of Little Rock; six grandchildren, Brad Hook, Bryan Hook, Jamie Hook, Julie Hook Largent, Emilee Hook, and Casey Hook; and four great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, the Senate of the Eighty-Fourth General Assembly wishes to publicly recognize Mr. Hook's many contributions to his nation, the State of Arkansas, law enforcement, his church, and his community,

NOW THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

That the individual members of the Senate hereby express sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Hook, and upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy shall be provided to the family of Mr. Hook.