

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

SMR 5

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5 By: Senator Laverty  
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8 **SENATE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

9 HONORING THE MEMORY AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF JERRY A.  
10 McFARLAND.

11  
12 **Subtitle**

13 HONORING THE MEMORY AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF  
14 JERRY A. McFARLAND.  
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17 WHEREAS, Jerry A. McFarland, a Harrison community leader whose  
18 contributions to athletics and business will long be remembered, died on  
19 December 23, 2003, at the age of eighty (80); and  
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21 WHEREAS, perhaps best known as the "Voice of the Goblins", Jerry  
22 McFarland finished his lifetime involvement with youth and athletics as the  
23 public address announcer for the Harrison Goblins and Lady Goblins for  
24 thirty-two (32) years; and  
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26 WHEREAS, as a player, McFarland enjoyed many sports, excelling in  
27 basketball, baseball, swimming, and track; and  
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29 WHEREAS, McFarland's ten-year career as a football and basketball  
30 coach, including Head Coach at Mabelvale and Pine Bluff high schools, earned  
31 him and the Pine Bluff Zebras the 1952 state basketball championship; and  
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33 WHEREAS, after coaching, McFarland continued his involvement with  
34 community athletics by organizing and directing little league and booster  
35 clubs in the Pine Bluff area even after moving to Harrison in 1969; and  
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1           WHEREAS, McFarland was the organizer and president of the Ozarks  
2 Basketball Classic, now the Pizza Hut-Lendel Thomas Classic, an annual  
3 Christmas break event for the last ten (10) years; and  
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5           WHEREAS, McFarland served on the committee to build and equip the  
6 Millbrook Sports Complex in Harrison, which sports six (6) baseball fields  
7 and four (4) soccer fields; and  
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9           WHEREAS, McFarland served on the committee that raised three hundred  
10 forty thousand dollars (\$340,000) to build the Harrison Youth Center, renamed  
11 the Brandon Burlsworth Youth Center, and was Co-chairman of the Brandon  
12 Burlsworth Memorial Golf Tournament; and  
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14           WHEREAS, five (5) years ago the Harrison Chamber of Commerce  
15 established the McFarland Outstanding Youth Organization Award, presented at  
16 the Chamber's annual recognition banquet to a youth group which has  
17 contributed time and services to the community; and  
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19           WHEREAS, according to Layne Wheeler, President of the Harrison Chamber  
20 of Commerce, McFarland "used sports to touch lives in every community where  
21 he has lived, . . . worked tirelessly to provide young people a place to  
22 blossom through their love of sports, . . . [and] at a time when many of us  
23 wondered how to reach America's youth, Jerry McFarland found the way"; and  
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25           WHEREAS, in addition to his involvement with athletics, McFarland  
26 always recognized the importance of industry to the community, and his impact  
27 upon Harrison's economy is immeasurable; and  
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29           WHEREAS, McFarland served as an official of the Boone County Industrial  
30 Development Corporation for thirty (30) years, its president for ten (10)  
31 years, and as Chairman of the Workforce Development Board for seventeen (17)  
32 years; and  
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34           WHEREAS, because of McFarland's efforts, several new industries located  
35 in the Harrison area and a fifty thousand (50,000) square foot building, now  
36 home to Johnson Manufacturing, was constructed; and

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2           WHEREAS, McFarland was the mastermind and director of "Industry  
3 Employee Appreciation Day", a unique event in which community leaders and  
4 employers have honored, in three (3) special celebrations, industry employees  
5 and their families with food, entertainment, and door prizes totaling over  
6 one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000); and  
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8           WHEREAS, McFarland was instrumental in Tyson Foods, Inc. locating its  
9 feed mill in Bergman, Arkansas resulting in over four hundred (400) chicken  
10 houses being built in Boone County and hundreds of thousands of dollars to  
11 the community; and  
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13           WHEREAS, McFarland served on the committee which raised two hundred  
14 sixty thousand dollars (\$260,000) to build a new chamber of commerce  
15 building, served as Treasurer for Boone County Special Services for over  
16 twenty (20) years, served for seven (7) years on the North Arkansas Regional  
17 Medical Center Board of Governors, and led the fight for the hospital to  
18 become a nonprofit "501(c)(3)" corporation; and  
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20           WHEREAS, business and industry in Harrison would not be where it is  
21 today without the influence and leadership of Jerry McFarland, according to  
22 former Harrison Booster Club President Don Sugg; and  
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24           WHEREAS, whether he is remembered as the "Voice of the Goblins" or an  
25 innovative community leader, Jerry McFarland will be fondly remembered for  
26 his unwavering devotion to a better Harrison, and his positive spirit, unique  
27 sense of humor, and warm presence,  
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29 NOW THEREFORE,

30 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
31 STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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33           THAT the Senate honors the memory of Jerry A. McFarland and recognizes  
34 his significant contributions to business, athletics, and industry within and  
35 without the Harrison community.  
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