

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

SMR 8

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5 By: Senators Gullett, Salmon

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SENATE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

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CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS, AND

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MOURNING THE PASSING OF LOUIS L. RAMSAY.

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Subtitle

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CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS,

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AND MOURNING THE PASSING OF LOUIS L.

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RAMSAY.

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WHEREAS, the state lost a tremendously successful and influential attorney and businessman with the passing of Louis L. Ramsay of Pine Bluff in his home on January 4, 2004, at the age of eighty-five (85); and

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WHEREAS, after attending Fordyce public schools, Louis Ramsay received an athletic scholarship from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, lettering as a quarterback in 1940 and 1941 and remaining a life-long supporter of the Arkansas Razorbacks; and

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WHEREAS, Ramsay served as a pilot in the U.S. Army Air Corps in Europe during World War II, was awarded the Air Medal with four (4) Oak Leaf Clusters, and was discharged from the U. S. Air Force Reserve as a Major; and

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WHEREAS, in 1966 Ramsay received the Arkansas Bar Association and Arkansas Bar Foundation Outstanding Lawyer Award, and was the only person in Arkansas history to have been elected and to have served as president of both the Arkansas Bar Association and Arkansas Bankers' Association; and

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WHEREAS, Ramsay was already a successful Pine Bluff attorney when in



1 1970 he was named President of Simmons First National Bank, a small bank with
2 \$87 million in assets, which he helped guide over the next thirty-four (34)
3 years to an institution with \$2.3 billion in assets and seventy-eight (78)
4 offices in Arkansas; and

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6 WHEREAS, at the time of his death, Ramsay was still a member of
7 Simmons' Board of Directors and Chairman of its Executive Committee as well
8 as Chairman of the Executive Committee of Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield and
9 a former member of the Blue Cross board; and

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11 WHEREAS, Ramsay served on the Board of Trustees of the University of
12 Arkansas System from 1970 to 1980, and as its chairman from 1978 to 1981; and

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14 WHEREAS, former Governor and President Bill Clinton, who appointed
15 Ramsay to the original board of the Arkansas Science and Technology Authority
16 and to chair Arkansas' Sesquicentennial Commission in 1985, stated he "will
17 always be especially grateful for [Ramsay's] dedicated service on the
18 University of Arkansas Board of Trustees, and his strong support for
19 education"; and

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21 WHEREAS, in 1982 Ramsay received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from
22 the University of Arkansas; in 1989 the Arkansas Diamond Award from the
23 Arkansas chapter of the Public Relation Society of America; and in 1986, in a
24 poll conducted by the Pine Bluff Commercial newspaper, was selected as Pine
25 Bluff's most influential citizen; and

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27 WHEREAS, Ramsay served on numerous civic and government organizations,
28 including board member of the Razorback Foundation, Inc.; past president of
29 the Jefferson County Bar Association; University of Arkansas Alumni
30 associations; University of Arkansas Endowment and Trust Fund; Fifty for the
31 Future of Pine Bluff, Inc.; the University of Arkansas Foundation; the UALR
32 Board of Visitors; the UAPB Board of Trustees; the Jefferson County Economic
33 Development Alliance Board; and past president of the Pine Bluff Chamber of
34 Commerce and the Pine Bluff Rotary Club; and

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36 WHEREAS, Ramsay received the 1990 Humanitarian of the Year Award from

1 the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Distinguished Service
2 Award from the Razorback Foundation, and received honorary doctors of law
3 degrees from the University of Arkansas and UAPB; and

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5 WHEREAS, on April 23, 2002, the Simmons First National Bank Boardroom
6 was named the Louis L. Ramsay Board Room in Ramsay's honor; and

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8 WHEREAS, on October 13, 2003, Simmons and Blue Cross Blue Shield
9 combined to establish a \$250,000 faculty fund at the University of Arkansas
10 Sam M. Walton College of Business in honor of Mr. Ramsay and his wife; and

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12 WHEREAS, in 2003, Ramsay was inducted into the Arkansas Business Hall
13 of Fame, joining such business pioneers as Sam Walton and William Dillard;
14 and

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16 WHEREAS, Lieutenant Governor Win Rockefeller joins the Senate in
17 honoring the memory and achievements of Louis Ramsay,

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19 NOW THEREFORE,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
21 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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23 THAT the Senate honors the memory of Louis Ramsay, celebrates his life
24 and significant contributions to government, business, and the legal
25 community, and thanks him for leaving his state and community better than
26 when he arrived.