

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009

SMR 3

4
5 By: Senator Bryles

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8 **SENATE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

9 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF GEORGE CLYDE KELL AND IN
10 RECOGNITION OF HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF
11 ARKANSAS AND MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL.

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14 **Subtitle**

15 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF GEORGE CLYDE
16 KELL AND IN RECOGNITION OF HIS
17 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS
18 AND MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL.

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21 WHEREAS, George Clyde Kell died on March 24, 2009, at the age of 86 in
22 Swifton, Arkansas; and

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24 WHEREAS, George Kell grew up in Swifton, Arkansas and played collegiate
25 baseball at Arkansas State University, which later recognized his
26 contributions by naming the university's baseball stadium after him; and

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28 WHEREAS, George Kell went on to play professional baseball as a third
29 baseman with various organizations, including the Philadelphia Athletics, the
30 Detroit Tigers, the Boston Red Sox, the Chicago White Sox, and the Baltimore
31 Orioles; and

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33 WHEREAS, George Kell played professional baseball for 15 seasons,
34 hitting above .300 nine times and compiling a career average of .306 and in
35 1949 edged Ted Williams for the American League Batting title; and

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1 WHEREAS, George Kell upon retiring from playing baseball became a
2 broadcast announcer for the Detroit Tigers games for almost forty years; and

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4 WHEREAS, George Kell was recognized for his outstanding contributions
5 to baseball and was named as an All-Star ten times and in 1983 was inducted
6 into the Baseball Hall of Fame; and

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8 WHEREAS, Hall of Fame President Jeff Idelson said, "There's no one who
9 loved and respected the game more than George. Not only was he one of
10 baseball's true legends, but he was a fan, too."; and

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12 WHEREAS, baseball great and fellow Arkansan Brooks Robinson called Kell
13 "a class act through and through" and had Kell by his side when he was
14 inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1983, saying, "I went in with my hero,
15 George Kell"; and

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17 WHEREAS, George Kell's love of Arkansas caused him to choose to live in
18 Swifton, Arkansas, and commute to his job during his many years as a sports
19 broadcaster; and

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21 WHEREAS, George Kell continued to serve the State of Arkansas and was
22 appointed by Governor Bumpers to a ten-year term on the Arkansas Highway
23 Commission; and

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25 WHEREAS, George Kell is survived by his wife Carolyn, brother Everett
26 "Skeeter" Kell, daughter Terrie Jane Lawrence, five grandchildren, two step-
27 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and six step-great-grandchildren,

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29 NOW THEREFORE,

30 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
31 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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33 That the Senate of the Eighty-Seventh General Assembly mourns the
34 passing of George Clyde Kell and recognizes the impact he had on Arkansas and
35 the baseball community.

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the individual members of the Senate hereby
2 express sincere condolences to the family of George Clyde Kell and upon
3 adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy shall be provided to the
4 family by the Secretary of the Senate.

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