

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Fiscal Session, 2012

SR 4

4
5 By: Senator J. Key

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7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

8 HONORING UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE JOHN PAUL
9 HAMMERSCHMIDT ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
10 ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES
11 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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14 **Subtitle**

15 HONORING UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
16 JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT ON THE 20TH
17 ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF HIS
18 RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES HOUSE
19 OF REPRESENTATIVES.

20
21 WHEREAS, John Paul Hammerschmidt, a native of Harrison, Boone County,
22 Arkansas, served with distinction and honor in the United States House of
23 Representatives from the Northwestern Arkansas District for 13 terms,
24 announcing his retirement on March 3, 1992; and

25
26 WHEREAS, the Honorable United States Representative John Paul
27 Hammerschmidt from Harrison, Arkansas, was the first Republican elected to
28 Congress from Arkansas since 1877 and represented Arkansas' Third
29 Congressional District for 26 years from 1967 until his retirement in 1993;
30 and

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32 WHEREAS, Representative Hammerschmidt served his constituents
33 tirelessly in their dealings with federal agencies, especially as an advocate
34 for veterans' benefits and serving as a member of the Veterans Affairs
35 Committee; and



1 WHEREAS, Representative Hammerschmidt, as a ranking member of the House
2 Public Works Committee, helped guide federal funding to Arkansas for projects
3 such as the construction of Highway 540 from Interstate Highway 40 to the
4 Missouri line, the four-lane divided Highway 65 from Harrison to the Missouri
5 line, federal buildings in Fayetteville and Harrison, and the Northwest
6 Arkansas Regional Airport; and

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8 WHEREAS, Representative Hammerschmidt sponsored a bill that in 1972
9 established the Buffalo River in Arkansas as the nation's first national
10 river, under management of the National Park Service; and

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12 WHEREAS, following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Representative
13 Hammerschmidt joined the Army Air Corps, was commissioned as a second
14 lieutenant, and volunteered to serve with the Third Combat Cargo Group in the
15 China-India-Burma Theater. He flew 217 combat missions, many over the
16 eastern Himalayan Mountains. For his service he received the Distinguished
17 Flying Cross with three oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal with four oak leaf
18 clusters, three Battle Stars, and the Meritorious Service Award; and

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20 WHEREAS, Representative Hammerschmidt graduated in 1938 from Harrison
21 High School, attended The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, from 1938 to
22 1939, the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville from 1940 to 1941, and after
23 serving in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II, attended
24 Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma, from 1945 to 1946 where he
25 received a bachelor of science degree; and

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27 WHEREAS, Representative Hammerschmidt was a delegate to the Republican
28 National Conventions in 1964, 1968, 1972, 1976, 1980, 1984, 1988, and 1992
29 and was twice the state chairman of the Republican Party of Arkansas, serving
30 from 1964 to 1966, and again from 2002 to 2004; and

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32 WHEREAS, Representative Hammerschmidt was a member of the President's
33 Commission on Aviation Security and Terrorism established in September 1989
34 to review and report on aviation security policy in the wake of the sabotage
35 of Pan Am Flight 103 on December 21, 1988; and

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1 WHEREAS, Representative Hammerschmidt served in the United States Air
2 Force Reserve from 1945 to 1960, and the United States Army Reserve from 1977
3 to 1981, is a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars,
4 Freemasons, Shriners, Elks Club, Rotary International, and has Alumni status
5 at the Alpha Zeta chapter of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity at the University
6 of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas; and

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8 WHEREAS, Representative Hammerschmidt was instrumental since the early
9 1970s in bringing to completion the planning of Interstate 540, connecting
10 the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and the State Capitol via
11 Interstate 40. On January 8, 1999, the road was fully opened to traffic and
12 was re-designated I-540 and also designated the "John Paul Hammerschmidt
13 Highway" in honor of the former United States Representative from Arkansas,
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15 NOW THEREFORE,

16 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
17 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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19 THAT the Senate honors and recognizes United States Representative John
20 Paul Hammerschmidt upon the 20th anniversary of the announcement of his
21 retirement from his distinguished service to the State of Arkansas as a
22 member of the United states House of Representatives.
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24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon its adoption, a copy of this
25 resolution be delivered to Representative Hammerschmidt as a testament to his
26 distinguished service and as a token of the state's gratitude.
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