

ARKANSAS SENATE

88th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2011

Amendment Form

Subtitle of Senate Resolution No. 29

HONORING JIM GASTON AS THE ARKANSAS BUSINESS EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR
AND FOR HIS PENDING INDUCTION INTO THE ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY-
MOUNTAIN HOME TROUT HALL OF FAME.

Amendment No. 2 to Senate Resolution No. 29

Amend Senate Resolution No. 29 as originally introduced:

Page 1, delete lines 25 through 28, and substitute the following:

"WHEREAS, Mr. Jim Gaston, the colorful operator of Gaston's White River Resort at Lakeview for forty-two (42) years, was named Arkansas Business Executive of the Year for 2010; and

WHEREAS, entrants in the Arkansas Business of the Year awards program are nominated by Arkansas Business readers; and

WHEREAS, winners are selected by an independent board of judges; and this year's judges were Joe Chacko, vice president of wealth management with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney in Little Rock, Arkansas; Kathy Manis Findley, executive director of Safe Places and last year's Nonprofit Executive of the Year; Lynn Wright, area president of Regions Bank; Joe Stanley, principal and CEO of Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects and last year's Business Executive of the Year; and Craig Lair, an attorney with Rose Law Firm; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gaston said when accepting the award, "You will never have any idea how much this means to me. I feel like I'm in a 1930s or '40s movie about the country boy coming to town."; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gaston always wanted to be in business, and as he followed that path, he became an ambassador supreme for Arkansas tourism and transformed Gaston's White River Resort into a world-class destination for trout fishing; and

WHEREAS, the once rustic resort consisted of a boat dock, six cottages, and a few acres when his father, Al, bought the property in the winter of 1958; today, Gaston's, located two (2) river-miles below Bull Shoals Dam, covers more than four hundred (400) acres with amenities galore: a dock facility supporting seventy (70) fishing boats, seventy-nine (79) cottages, a



125-seat conference center and its own restaurant that seats three hundred fifty (350), a private club, a three thousand two hundred foot (3,200 ft.) airstrip, marina, swimming pool, tennis court, game room, fly-fishing school, conference lodge, gift shops, and nature trail, all backed by a seasonal staff of seventy-five (75) to one hundred (100) persons; and

WHEREAS, the 69-year-old commissioner emeritus for the Arkansas State Parks, Recreation & Travel Commission has held various leadership positions over the years, including with the Arkansas Hospitality Association and the Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce; serves as a volunteer at the Bull Shoals State Park visitor center that bears his name and has served as president of the Arkansas Tourism Development Foundation since its founding in 1970; and has been a dedicated and dynamic force in the Arkansas travel and tourism industry, including its role in environmental education; and

WHEREAS, his credo is to "simply make the world a better place however I can"; and Mr. Gaston certainly has helped make Arkansas a better place; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gaston will also soon be inducted into the Arkansas State University-Mountain Home Trout Hall of Fame at the second annual Trout Hall of Fame induction and banquet on April 2, 2011, as he is a living legend in the world of trout and trout conservation; and the Trout Hall of Fame will be located in the Trout Nature Center, which is currently under construction in the Vada Sheid Community Development Center on the Arkansas State University-Mountain Home campus,"

AND

Page 1, delete line 33, and substitute the following:

"THAT the Senate congratulates Mr. Jim Gaston on his selection as the Arkansas Business Executive of the Year, recognizing his business accomplishments and acumen, and applauds his selection to the Arkansas State University-Mountain Home Trout Hall of Fame."

The Amendment was read the first time, rules suspended and read the second time and _____

By: Senator J. Key
KLL/YTC - 03/10/11 01:27
KLL240

Secretary