

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005

SCR 18

4
5 By: Senator Hill

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8 **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

9 COMMENDING DR. JOHN L. FERGUSON FOR HIS
10 OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PRESERVATION AND
11 INTERPRETATION OF ARKANSAS HISTORY FOR MORE THAN
12 HALF A CENTURY.

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14 **Subtitle**

15 COMMENDING DR. JOHN L. FERGUSON FOR HIS
16 OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
17 PRESERVATION AND INTERPRETATION OF
18 ARKANSAS HISTORY FOR MORE THAN HALF A
19 CENTURY.

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22 WHEREAS, John L. Ferguson was raised on a farm near Nashville, Arkansas
23 where he read every history book he could get his hands on; and

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25 WHEREAS, John L. Ferguson's love of history led him to pursue a
26 Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Henderson Teachers College, now known
27 as Henderson State University, a Master of Arts degree in History from the
28 University of Arkansas, and a Ph.D. in History from Tulane University; and

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30 WHEREAS, after teaching college for several years, Dr. Ferguson was
31 hired as the State Historian for the Arkansas History Commission, a position
32 he has held for more than forty-three (43) years; and

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34 WHEREAS, Dr. Ferguson has written many books and articles on Arkansas
35 history for scholars and students, including "Arkansas and the Civil War"
36 (1964), "Historic Arkansas" (1966), which was one of the first textbooks on



1 Arkansas history for school children, "Arkansas Lives: the Opportunity Land
2 Who's Who" (1967), and most recently, "The Church Called County Line" (2002);
3 and
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5 WHEREAS, as the Director of the Arkansas History Commission, Dr.
6 Ferguson has spearheaded numerous history projects and historic preservation
7 programs, including completion of the first statewide survey of historic
8 structures with staff from the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and federal
9 historic preservation specialist, the establishment of the first historic
10 preservation program in Arkansas, service as Chairman of the Arkansas
11 American Revolution Bicentennial and as a member of the board for the
12 Arkansas Sesquicentennial, and establishment of a Conservation Lab within the
13 Arkansas History Commission to preserve priceless Arkansas historical
14 materials; and
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16 WHEREAS, Dr. Ferguson not only has dedicated himself to preserving and
17 interpreting Arkansas history through the Arkansas History Commission, but
18 also has donated many of his family's historical belongings, including
19 wagons, furniture, farm equipment, and salt kettles, to museums throughout
20 the state, including museums in Dumas, Arkansas Post, and Stuttgart,
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22 NOW THEREFORE,
23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
24 STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:
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26 THAT the General Assembly recognizes and commends Dr. John L.
27 Ferguson's life-long commitment to preserving and interpreting the history of
28 Arkansas and his extraordinary accomplishments as a leader in his field and
29 congratulates Dr. Ferguson on his upcoming retirement.
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, the
32 Secretary of the Senate shall transmit a copy of this resolution to Dr. John
33 L. Ferguson.
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