

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

HMR 1002

4  
5 By: Representative J. Edwards  
6

7 **HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

8 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF MS. MYRA LEE JONES AND IN  
9 RECOGNITION OF HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF  
10 ARKANSAS AND HER LOCAL COMMUNITY.

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13 **Subtitle**

14 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF MS. MYRA LEE  
15 JONES AND IN RECOGNITION OF HER  
16 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS  
17 AND HER LOCAL COMMUNITY.  
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20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL  
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

22  
23 WHEREAS, Ms. Myra Lee Jones of Little Rock, Arkansas, died on February  
24 20, 2012, at the age of seventy-five (75) years; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, Ms. Jones was raised on a ranch north of Rapid City, South  
27 Dakota, where she was active in 4-H, and training and showing cattle; and she  
28 attributed her strong work ethic to her experiences growing up on a working  
29 ranch; and  
30

31 WHEREAS, Ms. Jones was an accomplished musician and received a  
32 scholarship to attend the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Oberlin, Ohio;  
33 after graduation, she taught music in the Des Moines, Iowa, public schools  
34 and subsequently became a consultant for teaching music on television to  
35 students in six (6) counties; while teaching, earned a master's degree in  
36 music education at Drake University; and she was also a graduate of the



1 Executive Education Program at Harvard Business School; and

2  
3 WHEREAS, after moving to Little Rock, Arkansas, Ms. Jones was the first  
4 woman elected to a full term on the Little Rock City Board of Directors where  
5 she served from 1977 to 1984, including four (4) years as Vice-Mayor; served  
6 seven (7) terms in the Arkansas House of Representatives from 1985 through  
7 1998 and became the first woman to chair a standing committee, the City,  
8 County and Local Affairs Committee; and owned her own business, was a  
9 licensed realtor, worked since 2001 as a local government affairs consultant  
10 for the Little Rock REALTORS Association, and served on the board of Noram  
11 Energy (formerly ArkLa) for seventeen (17) years, becoming one of the first  
12 women from Arkansas to serve on a Fortune 500 Board; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, in addition to her service on the Little Rock City Board and  
15 the Arkansas General Assembly, Ms. Jones served as chair of the Commerce and  
16 Communications Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures, a  
17 member of the Local and State Government Advisory Committee of the Federal  
18 Communications Commission, and a member of the Board of Directors of the  
19 National League of Cities; was a proud member of the Arkansas Women's  
20 Political Caucus; served on the platform committee for the 1992 Democratic  
21 National Convention; and was a member of the Arkansas Travelers, working in  
22 Bill Clinton's campaign for President and for Hillary Clinton's presidential  
23 bid; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, the Little Rock Rotary Club made her a Paul Harris Fellow in  
26 2001 and Rotarian of the Year for 2002-2003; she received the Arkansas Spirit  
27 Award from the National Association of Women Business Owners in 2001; she was  
28 selected one (1) of the "Top 100 Women in Arkansas" by Arkansas Business  
29 Publishing Group for four (4) years; and she was named Representative of the  
30 Year by the Arkansas Municipal League in 1997 and Person of the Year in 1989;  
31 and

32  
33 WHEREAS, Ms. Jones was a board member of the Little Rock Rotary Club, a  
34 member of the Aesthetic Club, founding member of the Women's Foundation of  
35 Arkansas and the Heights Neighborhood Association, former president of the  
36 Women's Leadership Forum, and a member and former chair of St. Vincent

1 Women's Health Advisory Board; was a founding board member and former chair  
2 of Junior Achievement of Arkansas, the board of directors of the Quapaw Area  
3 Boy Scouts Council, the executive committee and board of the Greater Little  
4 Rock Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the board of the UALR Foundation  
5 Fund; and previously served on the State Capitol Arts and Grounds Commission  
6 and the Governor's Mansion Advisory Committee; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, Ms. Jones always said how proud she was that she was able to  
9 serve her state, her neighborhood, and her constituents, but that her  
10 proudest accomplishments were her children and grandchildren and her most  
11 important titles were Mom and Mimi; and her friends summed her up like this,  
12 "Myra was caring and compassionate, a true friend, with super organizational  
13 skills, and the ability to multitask and run on never-ending energy, always  
14 working with you and for you. She will be sorely missed."; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, her father, Ernest Gutsche, and her mother, Edith Anderson,  
17 preceded her in death; she is survived by her daughter, Melissa (Missy) Bowen  
18 and husband, Stephen of Maumelle, Arkansas; her son, Michael Jones and wife,  
19 Tonia of Greenville, Texas; and four (4) grandsons, Drew and Ethan Bowen, and  
20 Patrick and Jacob Jones,

21  
22 NOW THEREFORE,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL  
24 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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26 THAT the House of Representatives recognizes Ms. Myra Lee Jones's  
27 commitment, hard work, dedication, and years of service, and commends her for  
28 her contributions.

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the individual members of the House of  
31 Representatives hereby express sincere condolences to the family of Ms.  
32 Jones, and upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy shall be  
33 provided to her family by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.