

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013

HCMR 1001

4
5 By: Representatives Baine, Shepherd
6 By: Senator B. Pierce

7
8 **HOUSE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL**
9 **RESOLUTION**

10 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF MR. BOBBY GENE NEWMAN AND IN
11 RECOGNITION OF HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF
12 ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND HIS LOCAL
13 COMMUNITY.

14
15
16 **Subtitle**

17 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF MR. BOBBY GENE
18 NEWMAN AND IN RECOGNITION OF HIS
19 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS,
20 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND HIS
21 LOCAL COMMUNITY.

22
23
24 WHEREAS, Mr. Bobby Gene Newman was born on October 1, 1926, in El
25 Dorado, Arkansas, and passed from this life on March 3, 2013; and

26
27 WHEREAS, Mr. Newman was a veteran of the United States Navy; and

28
29 WHEREAS, Mr. Newman graduated from El Dorado High School in 1944, from
30 Ouachita Baptist University in 1950, and received his Masters' Degree from
31 the University of Arkansas; and

32
33 WHEREAS, as a man of great faith and conviction, Mr. Newman was a
34 member of Immanuel Baptist Church in El Dorado, Arkansas, where he attended
35 Sunday School and participated in many activities; and

36



1 WHEREAS, as a young man, Mr. Newman and his first wife participated in
2 the building of the Maple Avenue Baptist Church in Smackover, Arkansas, where
3 he raised his family as a faithful member, taught Sunday School and Training
4 Union and served as a deacon for many years; and

5
6 WHEREAS, Mr. Newman was owner and president of Smackover Insurance
7 Agency, Inc., in Smackover, Arkansas, where he worked every day for fifty
8 (50) years until September 18, 2012, when a hip replacement forced his
9 retirement; and

10
11 WHEREAS, Mr. Newman represented various parts of Union, Calhoun,
12 Ouachita, and Columbia counties in the House of Representatives from 1969 to
13 1998; and

14
15 WHEREAS, as a member of the House, Mr. Newman prided himself in helping
16 the people of Southern Arkansas; and

17
18 WHEREAS, Mr. Newman was a member of the Arkansas Legislative Council
19 from 1970-1998, where he served as chair during 1987-1988; and

20
21 WHEREAS, education was a passion for Mr. Newman, and he served as a
22 member of the House Education Committee during his entire tenure in the House
23 of Representatives, serving as vice chair from 1983-1990 and as chair from
24 1991-1994; and

25
26 WHEREAS, Mr. Newman also served on the Joint Budget, Insurance and
27 Commerce, and Rules Committees; and

28
29 WHEREAS, as a member of the House of Representatives, Mr. Newman was
30 proud to have co-sponsored the Arkansas Breast Cancer Act; sponsored
31 legislation creating the Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources in Smackover,
32 Arkansas; co-sponsored legislation creating Southern Arkansas University Tech
33 in East Camden, Arkansas, and Southern Arkansas University, El Dorado Branch,
34 now known as South Arkansas Community College; co-sponsored legislation that
35 created Arkansas' area health education centers and ensured that there was a
36 branch in South Arkansas; and was instrumental in creating four-lane highways

1 from Smackover, Arkansas, to El Dorado, Arkansas, and from El Dorado to
2 Junction City, Arkansas; and

3
4 WHEREAS, a 4.7-mile segment of Arkansas Highway 7 was renamed in
5 Newman's honor in 2011, recognizing his contributions to northern Union
6 County; and

7
8 WHEREAS, Mr. Newman was dedicated to his work with rural water
9 associations, rural fire departments, and acquiring natural gas for the
10 communities of Lisbon, Lawson, and Three Creeks, Arkansas; and

11
12 WHEREAS, Mr. Newman was a public servant committed not only to serving
13 the people who elected him to his seat in the Arkansas General Assembly, but
14 to anyone who needed help; and

15
16 WHEREAS, Mr. Newman considered himself an American, not a Democrat or
17 Republican; and considered himself a statesman, not a politician; and

18
19 WHEREAS, Mr. Newman led an active and resourceful life, enjoyed being a
20 member of the Smackover Chamber of Commerce, where he served as president;
21 enjoyed being a member of the Smackover Lions Club, the Smackover Public
22 Library Board of Directors, Friends of the Museum, and the South Arkansas
23 Sports Hall of Fame Board of Directors; coached Little League; served as a
24 Gideon; and attended performances of the South Arkansas Symphony; and

25
26 WHEREAS, Mr. Newman worked tirelessly with other men to develop the
27 Pine Hills Country Club in Smackover, Arkansas, and proudly displayed his
28 membership card as member number two (2); and

29
30 WHEREAS, a man who never compromised his principles, Mr. Newman was
31 impeccable in character and integrity with his first loyalty to God and his
32 convictions; and

33
34 WHEREAS, Mr. Newman is preceded in death by his parents, Benton Albert
35 and Mary Louise Roan Newman; his wife of forty-five (45) years, Mary
36 Elizabeth Raper Newman; and a daughter, Molly Gay Newman; and survivors

1 include his wife of fifteen (15) years, Joan Martin Brasher Newman; a son,
2 Brad Newman; a daughter, Lacy Newman; two brothers, A.G. (Joann) Newman, and
3 Donald Ray Newman; and various other friends and family members,
4

5 NOW THEREFORE,

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:
8

9 THAT the House of Representatives recognizes Mr. Bobby Gene Newman's
10 hard work, dedication, and years of service to his local community, the House
11 of Representatives, and the State of Arkansas, and commends him for his
12 leadership.
13

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the individual members of the House of
15 Representatives hereby express sincere condolences to the family of Mr.
16 Newman, and upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy shall be
17 provided to the family of Mr. Newman by the Chief Clerk of the House of
18 Representatives.
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36