

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021

SMR 4

4  
5 By: Senators C. Tucker, B. Ballinger, Beckham, Bledsoe, Caldwell, L. Chesterfield, A. Clark, B. Davis, J.  
6 Dismang, L. Eads, Elliott, J. English, Flippo, S. Flowers, T. Garner, Gilmore, K. Hammer, J. Hendren,  
7 Hester, Hickey, Hill, K. Ingram, Irvin, B. Johnson, M. Johnson, G. Leding, M. Pitsch, Rapert, Rice, B.  
8 Sample, G. Stubblefield, J. Sturch, D. Sullivan, Teague, D. Wallace  
9 By: Representatives L. Fite, Dalby, Cozart, Lundstrum, Wing, Eaves, Womack, Christiansen,  
10 McCullough, Hudson, A. Collins, Scott, V. Flowers, Clowney, Godfrey, F. Allen, Love, K. Ferguson, D.  
11 Ferguson, M. Hodges, Richardson, Murdock, Ennett, Springer, Perry, Fielding, D. Garner, Magie, Nicks,  
12 D. Whitaker, J. Mayberry

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14 **SENATE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

15 TO REMEMBER SENATOR JIM ARGUE AND TO RECOGNIZE HIS  
16 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND HIS LOCAL  
17 COMMUNITY.

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19  
20 **Subtitle**

21 TO REMEMBER SENATOR JIM ARGUE AND TO  
22 RECOGNIZE HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE  
23 OF ARKANSAS AND HIS LOCAL COMMUNITY.

24  
25 WHEREAS, James B. Argue Jr. was born on August 19, 1951, in Carthage,  
26 Texas, and died on May 3, 2018, in Little Rock, Arkansas, after a brief  
27 illness at sixty-six (66) years of age; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, he was known as "Jim" and was the son of Ann Bourland Argue  
30 and Reverend James B. Argue Sr., a longtime pastor of the church Jim joined  
31 at age fourteen (14) and was a member of until his death, Pulaski Heights  
32 United Methodist Church in Little Rock; and

33  
34 WHEREAS, Jim attended Little Rock public schools, graduated from Hall  
35 High School, and received a bachelor's degree in history and political  
36 science from Hendrix College in 1973; and



1  
2           WHEREAS, Jim embarked on a career in finance and investment after  
3 college graduation before joining the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas  
4 as president in 1981, a position he held for thirty-five (35) years and a  
5 role that capitalized on his fundraising skills and investment savvy, leading  
6 to the organization's increasing its assets from sixty-seven thousand dollars  
7 (\$67,000) to over one hundred sixty-four million dollars (\$164,000,000) under  
8 his leadership; and

9  
10           WHEREAS, Jim grew the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas into one  
11 (1) of the largest foundations for United Methodist churches in the United  
12 States and gave the foundation financial security, efforts that are greatly  
13 appreciated by the United Methodist church he so dearly loved; and

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15           WHEREAS, in 1990, frustrated by the operation of state government, he  
16 was persuaded to run for the House of Representatives by his close friends;  
17 and

18  
19           WHEREAS, Representative Argue served in the House of Representatives  
20 until 1996 when he was elected to the Senate, where he served until 2006,  
21 including as Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, and capped his  
22 political career with service as President Pro Tempore of the Senate in 2005  
23 and 2006; and

24  
25           WHEREAS, Senator Argue was revered for his intellect and leadership on  
26 education during his time in the legislature and was a key architect and  
27 forceful negotiator in the state's response to the Arkansas Supreme Court  
28 decision that required the education system in Arkansas to be reformed and  
29 improved, and his legacy lies in the enhancement of the standards and funding  
30 of the state's public education system; and

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32           WHEREAS, always known as a thoughtful voice in the legislature, he  
33 sought to work across the aisle to make government work, and in 1997, the  
34 Center for Policy Alternatives in Washington, D.C., named Senator Argue a  
35 Flemming Fellow, one (1) of many awards and honors throughout the years that  
36 include a National Humanitarian Award by Just Communities of Central

1 Arkansas, the renaming of the Leadership Greater Little Rock Distinguished  
2 Leadership Award in his name, the Lincoln Humanitarian Award from the  
3 Arkansas Rice Depot, the Friend of Children Award from Arkansas Advocates for  
4 Children and Families, and the Hendrix College Ethel K. Millar Award for  
5 Religious and Social Awareness and Distinguished Alumni Award; and

6  
7 WHEREAS, Senator Argue served on the boards of Arkansas Advocates for  
8 Children and Families, the Arkansas Travelers Baseball Club, the Arkansas  
9 Historical Association, St. Vincent Medical Center, and the National  
10 Conference for Community and Justice; served as a director of the Southwest  
11 Educational Development Laboratory in Austin, Texas, and as an advisory board  
12 member of the Southern Regional Education Board in Atlanta, Georgia; and  
13 loved his family, baseball, and his friends, especially his best friends Bill  
14 Mann and Dickie Lunsford; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, Senator Argue is survived by his loving wife Elise and  
17 daughters Sarah Argue and Emily Stotts, sons-in-law Matthew Anderson and Jeff  
18 Stotts, and grandchildren Charlotte and Anderson Stotts,

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20 NOW THEREFORE,

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
22 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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24 THAT the individual members of the Senate remember Senator Jim Argue  
25 and recognize his enormous contributions to the State of Arkansas and his  
26 local community.

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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate  
29 copy be provided to Elise Argue and family by the Secretary of the Senate.

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