

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

H.M.R.

1002

By: Representatives McGee and McCuiston

HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF JOHN GAMMON, A PHILANTHROPIST,
FARMER AND A MAJOR PROMOTER OF BETTER RACE RELATIONS IN
CRITTENDEN COUNTY, AS WELL AS THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, John Gammon of Marion, Arkansas, died on October 9, 1988; and
WHEREAS, John Gammon, a successful farmer organized the first black
division of the Arkansas Farm Bureau; and

WHEREAS, John Gammon started the Green Thumb, an organization to put
retired men to work in Crittenden County and eastern Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, John Gammon loved young people and instilled in them the
importance of getting an education; and

WHEREAS, as an outward manifestation of his love for youth and his belief
in education, John Gammon personally gave funds to assist students in college
and later started the John Gammon Foundation; and

WHEREAS, between the John Gammon Foundation and Mr. Gammon personally,
over 261 scholarships have been given to needy students without regard to
race; and

WHEREAS, John Gammon, the grandson of a slave, was well known in his
community as a pioneer in improving race relations; and

WHEREAS, his contributions to both black and white relationships set a
pattern that resulted in the respect of both races; and

WHEREAS, John Gammon's greatest pleasure was sharing the bounty of his
own crops with his many friends and he shall be fondly remembered for his
dropping by with gifts of produce and his annual truckload of watermelons to
Crittenden Memorial Hospital,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

That this Resolution is adopted in respectful memory of John Gammon in recognition of his many outstanding contributions to Crittenden County in particular and the State of Arkansas in general.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption of this Resolution, a copy shall be transmitted to his wife, Mary Kennedy Gammon, his daughter, Ida Marie Wilson, and The John Gammon Foundation - Mary Tony, President.