

1 State of Arkansas
2 80th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 1995
4 By: Senator Hoofman

S.R. 25

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7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

8 TO PROVIDE THAT AN AMERICAN LIBERTY ELM TREE SHALL BE
9 PLANTED ON THE STATE CAPITOL GROUNDS ON MONDAY, MARCH 20,
10 IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE WILBUR D. MILLS.

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12 **Subtitle**

13 TO PROVIDE THAT AN AMERICAN LIBERTY ELM TREE SHALL BE
14 PLANTED ON THE STATE CAPITOL GROUNDS ON MONDAY, MARCH 20,
15 IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE WILBUR D. MILLS.

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17 WHEREAS, Arbor Day is a nationally recognized holiday in the United
18 States of America, and Monday, March 20, 1995 is the official Arbor Day
19 throughout the state of Arkansas; and

20 WHEREAS, the American Liberty Elm was named after the renowned "Liberty
21 Tree", our country's first symbol of freedom; and

22 WHEREAS, the Boston patriots awakened in 1765 to discover two effigies
23 suspended from an elm tree in protest of the hated Stamp Act; and

24 WHEREAS, that elm become known as "The Liberty Tree" and stood for the
25 next decade as a silent witness to countless meetings, speeches, celebrations
26 and often served as the rallying place for the "Sons of Liberty"; and

27 WHEREAS, as a last act of vengeance prior to their Boston evacuation,
28 the British soldiers cut down the tree in August of 1775 because it bore the
29 proud name "Liberty"; and

30 WHEREAS, the Arkansas Trial Lawyers Association has memorialized
31 Arkansas' great trial attorneys throughout our history; and

32 WHEREAS, the late Congressman Wilbur D. Mills attended Hendrix College
33 in Arkansas and Harvard University Law School in Massachusetts and practiced
34 law in Arkansas and Washington, D. C.; and

35 WHEREAS, Congressman Mills served as county and probate judge in White

1 County, as congressman from Arkansas_ Second District and as chairman of the
2 U. S. House of Representatives Committee on Ways and Means, establishing
3 historic records for Arkansas in each of these positions, plus garnering in
4 the nation_s capital city, the simple yet important name: "Mr. Chairman";
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Congressman Mills spent countless hours in the Arkansas
7 capital working with numerous governors and legislators on behalf of
8 individual constituents and on behalf of the betterment of our state,
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10 NOW THEREFORE,

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE
12 OF ARKANSAS:

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14 That on Monday, March 20, 1995, Arkansas Arbor Day, a historic American
15 Liberty Elm shall be planted on the Arkansas State Capitol grounds. This tree
16 shall be planted along and within an existing row of elms and symbolically it
17 shall represent the story of Arkansas having had many U. S. Congressmen, but
18 only one Congressman Wilbur D. Mills who was first amongst his peers. This
19 historic tree shall be planted with a mix of soil from White County, Arkansas
20 and Washington, D. C._s Capitol grounds. A scroll of autographs of all
21 attending the planting of the tree shall be prepared and preserved to attest
22 to the memory of our respected and beloved "Mr. Chairman", the late Honorable
23 Wilbur D. Mills, who lived and worked and served in the great experiment
24 called: "American Liberty".

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