1  State of Arkansas

2  82nd General Assembly

3  Regular Session, 1999                                                  SMR   1

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5  By:  Senator Gordon

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8                    **SENATE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

9           "IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF THOMAS BENTON SMITH AND

10          EXPRESSING THE RESPECT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS

11          SENATE FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF

12          ARKANSAS."

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14                                **Subtitle**

15          "IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF THOMAS BENTON

16          SMITH AND EXPRESSING THE RESPECT OF THE

17          MEMBERS OF THE ARKANSAS SENATE FOR HIS

18          CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS."

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21          WHEREAS, the career of Thomas Benton Smith of Wynne included service as

22  county attorney and deputy prosecuting attorney for Cross County, municipal

23  judge for Cherry Valley and city attorney for Hickory Ridge; and

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25          WHEREAS, Thomas Smith twice was appointed to serve as special Arkansas

26  Supreme Court Justice, in 1987 and 1992; and

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28          WHEREAS, he belonged to the American Bar Association and the Arkansas

29  Bar Association, the Arkansas Trial Lawyers Association, and was president of

30  the Cross County Bar Association; and

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32          WHEREAS, Thomas Smith actively supported the democratic process through

33  extensive involvement in the Democratic Party, including work as State

34  Democratic Committee Treasurer for 10 years, delegate to the national

35  convention in 1976 and 1980, chairman of the Cross County Democratic Central

36  Committee and delegate to every Arkansas Democratic State Convention since

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1    1974; and

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3        WHEREAS, his tireless work for open and fair elections made him a

4    successful and respected Chairman of the Cross County Election Commission; and

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6        WHEREAS, Thomas Benton Smith was devoted to protecting the natural

7    resources of Arkansas, being a charter member and founding area chairman of

8    the Shaver-Farmer chapter of Ducks Unlimited, as well as state chairman of

9    Arkansas Ducks Unlimited in 1984 and 1985; and

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11        WHEREAS, he was a reliable and active participant in community and

12    church affairs, dedicating his time to service as a deacon of the Wynne

13    Presbyterian Church and as founding president of the board of Little Sheep Day

14    Care at the Wynne Presbyterian Church; and

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16        WHEREAS, his involvement supported the Wynne Rotary Club, the Wynne

17    Chamber of Commerce and the Wynne Fumble Club, and he was chosen to provide

18    his talents as a board member of the Arkansas Community Foundation; and

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20        WHEREAS, he loved his native state and its people; and

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22        WHEREAS, Thomas Benton Smith, age 50, died on January 13, 1999; and

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24        WHEREAS, Thomas Benton Smith, a son of Winnie Bob Smith of Birdeye and

25    the late James Harmon Smith, is survived by his mother; his wife, Counts

26    Felton Smith; a son, Thomas Benton Smith Jr.; a daughter, Counts Louise Smith;

27    his sisters, Carolyn Smith Rafferty and Meredith Smith Schweighart; and his

28    brothers, Harmond Smith and Bill Smith.

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30    NOW THEREFORE,

31    BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE

32    STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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34        THAT the members of the Arkansas Senate wish to honor the memory of

35    Thomas Benton Smith by expressing their respect for his life's work, their

36    gratitude for his contributions to Arkansas and their most sincere and

1    heartfelt condolences to his family and loved ones.

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