

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005

SR 21

4
5 By: Senators Capps, Altes, Argue, Baker, Bisbee, Broadway, Brown, Bryles, Critcher, Faris, Glover,
6 Hendren, Higginbothom, Hill, Holt, Horn, J. Jeffress, G. Jeffress, B. Johnson, Lavery, Luker, Madison,
7 Malone, Miller, Salmon, T. Smith, Steele, J. Taylor, Trusty, Whitaker, Wilkins, Wilkinson, Womack,
8 Wooldridge

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10

11 SENATE RESOLUTION

12 HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE OF
13 SENATOR JERRY BOOKOUT.

14

15 Subtitle

16 HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC
17 SERVICE OF SENATOR JERRY BOOKOUT.

18

19

20 WHEREAS, Senator Jerry Bookout is serving his final term in the
21 Arkansas Senate; and

22

23 WHEREAS, Senator Bookout graduated from Arkansas State College in
24 Jonesboro, Arkansas, in 1955, earning his Bachelor of Arts Degree in History
25 and Political Science and participating in the ROTC program; and

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27 WHEREAS, after graduation and three (3) years of service in the Army,
28 Senator Bookout returned to Jonesboro to become involved in business, civic,
29 and political affairs, including serving as a funeral home director; and

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31 WHEREAS, Senator Bookout continued his military service by joining the
32 National Guard, later receiving the Arkansas Distinguished Service Medal and
33 the U.S. Legion of Merit award and retiring with the rank of Colonel after
34 thirty (30) years of service; and

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36 WHEREAS, Senator Bookout's political career began in 1966 when he was



1 elected to the House of Representatives; and

2
3 WHEREAS, after three (3) terms in the House of Representatives, Senator
4 Bookout was first elected to the Senate in 1972;

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6 WHEREAS, Senator Bookout was elected President Pro Tempore in 1991; and

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8 WHEREAS, as a freshman legislator, Senator Bookout was one of the
9 original sponsors of legislation to elevate Arkansas State College to
10 university status in 1967; and

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12 WHEREAS, Senator Bookout's efforts led to the first doctoral and
13 physical therapy programs at Arkansas State University; and

14
15 WHEREAS, Senator Bookout also assisted in securing funding for the
16 Arkansas State University Convocation Center, which has become a gathering
17 place for Northeast Arkansas; and

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19 WHEREAS, Senator Bookout was the first chair of the Senate Retirement
20 Committee, where he sponsored legislation to modernize and revitalize the
21 state's retirement system; and

22
23 WHEREAS, Senator Bookout assisted in the development of the legislation
24 that became the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship, which helps children
25 from lower-to-moderate-income families attend college; and

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27 WHEREAS, Senator Bookout also co-sponsored legislation which created
28 kindergartens in public schools, provided free textbooks, and improved
29 working conditions for teachers; and

30
31 WHEREAS, in the Eighty-fourth General Assembly, Senator Bookout had the
32 honor of serving in the Senate while his son served as a member of the House
33 of Representatives, making them the first father/son duo to serve concurrent
34 terms in the Arkansas General Assembly; and

35
36 WHEREAS, Senator Bookout has been the recipient of numerous awards

1 throughout his career, including the Arkansas State University Distinguished
2 Alumnus Award, and has been honored by the Arkansas Municipal League, Retired
3 Teachers Association, Association of Municipal Police Chiefs, Arkansas
4 Education Association, Mental Health Providers, and the state Firefighters
5 Association; and

6
7 WHEREAS, Senator Bookout is a member of the Elks Lodge, the American
8 Legion, the Masonic Lodge, and the First Baptist Church; and

9
10 WHEREAS, Senator Bookout is cherished by his wife of forty-nine (49)
11 years, Loretta, his son, Paul Jerry Bookout, Jr., his daughter, Jill Rogers,
12 and his three (3) grandchildren, Morgan, P.J., and Rachel,

13
14 NOW THEREFORE,

15 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

16
17 That the Senate of the Eighty-fifth General Assembly thanks Senator
18 Jerry Bookout for his years of distinguished service to the State of
19 Arkansas, extends its heartfelt appreciation for the benefits his efforts
20 have brought to the citizens of this state, and wishes him the best in all
21 his future endeavors.