

1 State of Arkansas
2 86th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2007

HMR 1002

4
5 By: Representative R. Green
6
7

8 HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

9 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF MR. CLAIR LEWIS "COACH"
10 BATES.
11

12 Subtitle

13 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF MR. CLAIR LEWIS
14 "COACH" BATES.
15
16

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Clair Lewis Bates of Van Buren, Arkansas, was known as
18 "Coach" throughout the State of Arkansas; and
19

20 WHEREAS, Coach Bates was ninety-three (93) years old at the time of his
21 death; and
22

23 WHEREAS, Coach Bates played football for Fort Smith High School and
24 played on their 1931 state championship team; and
25

26 WHEREAS, Coach Bates served in the Army and was a veteran of World War
27 II; and
28

29 WHEREAS, Coach Bates coached high school football from 1934-1967 at
30 Fort Smith St. Anne's Academy, Alma High School, and Van Buren High School;
31 and
32

33 WHEREAS, in 1934, as an eighteen-year-old volunteer coach at Fort Smith
34 St. Anne's Academy, Coach Bates won his first varsity football game against
35 Little Rock Catholic High School; and
36



1 WHEREAS, Coach Bates led varsity teams at Van Buren High School to
2 eleven (11) district football championships, eight (8) men's district titles,
3 and eleven (11) women's district titles; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Coach Bates led the Van Buren's women's basketball program to
6 four (4) state championships and the men's golf program to two (2) state
7 championships, his sports teams reaching the state finals a total of twelve
8 (12) times; and
9

10 WHEREAS, Coach Bates was the first head football coach for the Arkansas
11 High School Coaches Association in 1956 and became the first coach to coach
12 both the men's All-Star football and basketball games; and
13

14 WHEREAS, in 1987, Coach Bates was inducted into the Arkansas Sports
15 Hall of Fame; and
16

17 WHEREAS, Coach Bates was a member of the 1995 inaugural class of the
18 Arkansas High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame; and
19

20 WHEREAS, in 1988, Coach Bates was named as Van Buren's first Citizen of
21 the Year; and
22

23 WHEREAS, in 2000, Coach Bates was named to the first class of Van
24 Buren's Hall of Honor; and
25

26 WHEREAS, the lives of countless young men and women were influenced by
27 Coach Bates as he was not only a coach but a mentor and a friend,
28

29 NOW THEREFORE,

30 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-SIXTH GENERAL
31 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
32

33 THAT the House of Representatives mourns the passing of Mr. Clair Lewis
34 "Coach" Bates and recognizes his many accomplishments and positive influence
35 upon the lives of countless young men and women.
36