

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

HMR 1005

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5 By: Representatives L. Smith, Edwards, House  
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## 8 HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

9 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF MR. WOODSON WILLIAM  
10 BASSETT, JR., AND IN RECOGNITION OF HIS MANY  
11 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND HIS  
12 LOCAL COMMUNITY.  
13

### 14 Subtitle

15 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF MR. WOODSON  
16 WILLIAM BASSETT, JR., AND IN RECOGNITION  
17 OF HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE  
18 OF ARKANSAS AND HIS LOCAL COMMUNITY.  
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21 WHEREAS, Woodson William "Bill" Bassett, Jr., was born on November 7,  
22 1926, in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, to Woodson W. Bassett, Sr. and Bee Knerr  
23 Bassett, and died surrounded by his family at his home in Fayetteville,  
24 Arkansas, on January 10, 2006; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Bassett grew up in his beloved Fayetteville, Arkansas,  
27 receiving his education in the Fayetteville public schools and later at the  
28 University of Arkansas, where he graduated from the School of Law in 1949 and  
29 was admitted to the Arkansas Bar in the same year; and  
30

31 WHEREAS, Mr. Bassett practiced law for nineteen (19) years with the  
32 firm of Putman, Davis, Bassett, Cox and Wright in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and  
33 he served as President of the Washington County Bar Association in 1973-1974;  
34 and  
35

36 WHEREAS, Mr. Bassett founded the law firm bearing his name in



1 Fayetteville, Arkansas, in 1981 with his two (2) sons, Woody Bassett and Tod  
2 Bassett, while his daughter, Beverly Bassett Schaffer, specialized in  
3 securities law in Little Rock, Arkansas, and became the first woman to serve  
4 as the state's Securities Commissioner; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, Mr. Bassett was selected for membership in the American  
7 College of Trial Lawyers and served as a member of the Arkansas Supreme Court  
8 Committee of Bar Examiners from 1984-1986 preparing questions and grading  
9 exams; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, Mr. Bassett served as a Special Justice on the Arkansas  
12 Supreme Court in 1983 and Special Chief Justice of the Arkansas Supreme  
13 Court in 1991; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, Mr. Bassett is survived by his loving wife and soulmate of  
16 fifty-five (55) years, Marynm Shaw Bassett, whom he married on December 16,  
17 1950; by one (1) daughter, Beverly Bassett Schaffer and her husband, Archie  
18 Schaffer III, of Fayetteville, Arkansas; two (2) sons, Woody Bassett of  
19 Fayetteville, and Tod Bassett and his wife, Mary Sugg Bassett, also of  
20 Fayetteville; two (2) grandchildren, Eliot Shaw Schaffer and Corbett Clayton  
21 Bassett; and two (2) sisters, Dorothy B. Edwards of Mountain Home, Arkansas,  
22 and Trixie Bassett Finn of Dermott, Arkansas; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, Mr. Bassett summed up his illustrious career in his own words,  
25 "It will suffice to say I grew up hard but married well, fathered three good  
26 children and, with little natural talent, worked very hard and ethically to  
27 succeed as a lawyer. I lived the best way I knew how and had a good and long  
28 life. My wife, Marynm, and my three children are my epitaph, making it  
29 important that I lived at all.",

30  
31 NOW THEREFORE,

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

34  
35 THAT the House of Representatives honors the memory of Mr. Woodson  
36 William "Bill" Bassett, Jr., celebrates his life, his personal integrity, and

1 his significant contributions to the Arkansas Bar and his community and  
2 state, and remembers him with the deepest admiration.

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the individual members of the House of  
5 Representatives hereby express sincere condolences to the family of Mr.  
6 Bassett, and upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy shall be  
7 provided to the family by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.