

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

SMR 5

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5 By: Senators Womack, Lavery, Faris

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8 **SENATE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

9 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF MR. J. E. DUNLAP, JR.,  
10 AND IN RECOGNITION OF HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE  
11 STATE OF ARKANSAS AND HIS LOCAL COMMUNITY.

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13 **Subtitle**

14 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF MR. J. E.  
15 DUNLAP, JR., AND IN RECOGNITION OF HIS  
16 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS  
17 AND HIS LOCAL COMMUNITY.

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20 WHEREAS, Mr. J. E. Dunlap, Jr., of Harrison, Arkansas, died on  
21 Wednesday, June 28, 2006, at the age of eighty-three (83), in Springfield,  
22 Missouri; and

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24 WHEREAS, Mr. Dunlap was known simply as J.E. by presidents, governors,  
25 senators, congressmen, and everyone he met on the street; and he thrived on  
26 challenges, whether writing a convincing editorial, fishing for crappie,  
27 interviewing presidents, or marching up and down the hills in Eureka Springs,  
28 Arkansas, carrying and playing the bass drum in the Harrison High School  
29 Band; and

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31 WHEREAS, he was quick-witted and known for his one-liners: "make  
32 yourself useful as well as ornamental"; "go to the line on the third to get a  
33 fifth for the fourth"; and "you can't sell newspapers if they aren't in the  
34 rack"; and

35  
36 WHEREAS, Mr. Dunlap's timeline was marked by accomplishments -- He



1 worked as a stringer for the statewide Arkansas Democrat at age seventeen  
2 (17) and at age eighty (80) was honored as the state's 2002 Outstanding Older  
3 Worker; and  
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5 WHEREAS, from the time he served as assistant sports editor of the high  
6 school newspaper, printer's ink was his blood; he learned to use the  
7 Intertype during free time in high school; was a 1940 graduate of Harrison  
8 High School; and was then hired full time by the weekly Boone County  
9 Headlight, where he ran the press half a week, wrote news the other half, and  
10 served as editor during the owner's vacation; and  
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12 WHEREAS, Mr. Dunlap returned to the Boone County Headlight after seeing  
13 action during World War II where he had trained to be a B-25 bombardier-  
14 navigator-gunner and served three (3) years in the Army Air Corps; and  
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16 WHEREAS, Mr. Dunlap was named publisher of the Boone County Headlight  
17 in 1945; self-taught, he carried the paper to the state's top honor five (5)  
18 years later, winning the Arkansas Press Association/Arkansas Livestock Show  
19 award for the best newspaper in Arkansas, weekly or daily; and at age thirty-  
20 one (31), he was the youngest president of the Arkansas Press Association;  
21 and  
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23 WHEREAS, he negotiated the merger of the Boone County Headlight with  
24 the third-generation Harrison Daily Times in 1954; was named publisher with  
25 majority ownership; and over the next forty (40) years, expanded the  
26 newspaper's coverage across six (6) counties and grew circulation from three  
27 thousand four hundred (3,400) to eleven thousand (11,000); and  
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29 WHEREAS, never content with mediocrity, he installed an offset press in  
30 1972, was Arkansas' first publisher to finance an electronic newsroom, and  
31 printed a two hundred-page sesquicentennial issue for July 4, 1986; and  
32

33 WHEREAS, Mr. Dunlap believed in using the power of the press for  
34 economic and civic projects, such as the Urban Renewal program after the May  
35 7, 1961, Flood, and the campaign to build the current Harrison Chamber of  
36 Commerce building; and

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2           WHEREAS, over his fifty (50) years as publisher, Mr. Dunlap was  
3 nominated twice for Pulitzer Prize recognition; was presented the Arkansas  
4 Community Development Program's Award of Exceptional Achievement; twice was  
5 presented the APA President's Award; was awarded the Ernie Deane Award in  
6 2000 for exemplifying the spirit, style, and courage of Ernie Deane; and was  
7 presented the Arkansas Press Association's Distinguished Service Award in  
8 2002; and

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10           WHEREAS, his other love was serving on the Arkansas State Police  
11 Commission; he was the longest-serving member - twenty-two (22) years, two  
12 (2) months - under five (5) governors; and he took great pride in serving the  
13 commission and the law enforcement officers; and

14  
15           WHEREAS, he loved fishing and Razorback basketball and football; he was  
16 known by sportswriters, some young enough to be his grandchildren, for  
17 annually asking the first question at the Razorbacks' preseason media day; he  
18 was unselfish, loyal, and enjoyed taking friends to Razorback football and  
19 basketball games, always supplying tickets and paying for dinner; and he was  
20 a regular coffee club member and enjoyed communicating with the newspaper's  
21 community correspondents; and

22  
23           WHEREAS, Mr. Dunlap embraced change but refused to budge on important  
24 traditions -- eating at the Extension Homemakers' Country Kitchen at the  
25 district fair was as important to him as attending a presidential  
26 inauguration; and

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28           WHEREAS, he was a member of the First Presbyterian Church since 1937  
29 where he served as an ordained deacon; was a former member and officer of the  
30 Junior Chamber of Commerce and a sixty-year member and former president of  
31 the Harrison Chamber of Commerce; was named to the Tourism Hall of Fame in  
32 2003; and served as a volunteer firefighter for many years; and

33  
34           WHEREAS, Mr. Dunlap was preceded in death by his parents, James E. and  
35 Dennie (Knox) Dunlap; his wife, Leota "Sammy" Dunlap; and a brother, Bevan  
36 Dunlap; and

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WHEREAS, he is survived by a daughter, Jane Dunlap Christenson and her husband, Jeff, of Harrison, Arkansas, and their daughter, Jennifer Christenson of Boulder, Colorado; a son, Lee H. Dunlap and his long-time companion, Karen Lair, of Harrison, Arkansas, and her daughter, Shelley Dowell and her husband, Clayton, of Fayetteville, Arkansas; and grandson, Cooper Dowell; and numerous other relatives and friends,

NOW THEREFORE,  
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate recognizes Mr. J. E. Dunlap's commitment, hard work, dedication, and service to the State of Arkansas and his local community, and commends him for his leadership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the individual members of the Senate hereby express sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Dunlap, and upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy shall be provided to the family by the Secretary of the Senate.