

1 State of Arkansas  
2 88th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2011

*As Engrossed: S3/14/11*

SR 29

4  
5 By: Senator J. Key

6  
7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

8 HONORING JIM GASTON AS THE ARKANSAS BUSINESS  
9 EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR AND FOR HIS PENDING INDUCTION  
10 INTO THE ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY-MOUNTAIN HOME  
11 TROUT HALL OF FAME.

12  
13  
14 **Subtitle**

15 HONORING JIM GASTON AS THE ARKANSAS  
16 BUSINESS EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR AND FOR  
17 HIS PENDING INDUCTION INTO THE ARKANSAS  
18 STATE UNIVERSITY-MOUNTAIN HOME TROUT HALL  
19 OF FAME.

20  
21  
22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
23 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

24  
25 *WHEREAS, Mr. Jim Gaston, the colorful operator of Gaston's White River*  
26 *Resort at Lakeview for forty-two (42) years, was named Arkansas Business*  
27 *Executive of the Year for 2010; and*

28  
29 *WHEREAS, entrants in the Arkansas Business of the Year awards program*  
30 *are nominated by Arkansas Business readers; and*

31  
32 *WHEREAS, winners are selected by an independent board of judges; and*  
33 *this year's judges were Joe Chacko, vice president of wealth management with*  
34 *Morgan Stanley Smith Barney in Little Rock, Arkansas; Kathy Manis Findley,*  
35 *executive director of Safe Places and last year's Nonprofit Executive of the*  
36 *Year; Lynn Wright, area president of Regions Bank; Joe Stanley, principal and*



1 *CEO of Polk Stanley Wilcox Architects and last year's Business Executive of*  
2 *the Year; and Craig Lair, an attorney with Rose Law Firm; and*

3  
4 *WHEREAS, Mr. Gaston said when accepting the award, "You will never have*  
5 *any idea how much this means to me. I feel like I'm in a 1930s or '40s movie*  
6 *about the country boy coming to town."; and*

7 *WHEREAS, Mr. Gaston always wanted to be in business, and as he followed*  
8 *that path, he became an ambassador supreme for Arkansas tourism and*  
9 *transformed Gaston's White River Resort into a world-class destination for*  
10 *trout fishing; and*

11  
12 *WHEREAS, the once rustic resort consisted of a boat dock, six cottages,*  
13 *and a few acres when his father, Al, bought the property in the winter of*  
14 *1958; today, Gaston's, located two (2) river-miles below Bull Shoals Dam,*  
15 *covers more than four hundred (400) acres with amenities galore: a dock*  
16 *facility supporting seventy (70) fishing boats, seventy-nine (79) cottages, a*  
17 *125-seat conference center and its own restaurant that seats three hundred*  
18 *fifty (350), a private club, a three thousand two hundred foot (3,200 ft.)*  
19 *airstrip, marina, swimming pool, tennis court, game room, fly-fishing school,*  
20 *conference lodge, gift shops, and nature trail, all backed by a seasonal*  
21 *staff of seventy-five (75) to one hundred (100) persons; and*

22  
23 *WHEREAS, the 69-year-old commissioner emeritus for the Arkansas State*  
24 *Parks, Recreation & Travel Commission has held various leadership positions*  
25 *over the years, including with the Arkansas Hospitality Association and the*  
26 *Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce; serves as a volunteer at the Bull Shoals*  
27 *State Park visitor center that bears his name and has served as president of*  
28 *the Arkansas Tourism Development Foundation since its founding in 1970; and*  
29 *has been a dedicated and dynamic force in the Arkansas travel and tourism*  
30 *industry, including its role in environmental education; and*

31  
32 *WHEREAS, his credo is to "simply make the world a better place however*  
33 *I can"; and Mr. Gaston certainly has helped make Arkansas a better place; and*

34  
35 *WHEREAS, Mr. Gaston will also soon be inducted into the Arkansas State*

1 *University-Mountain Home Trout Hall of Fame at the second annual Trout Hall*  
2 *of Fame induction and banquet on April 2, 2011, as he is a living legend in*  
3 *the world of trout and trout conservation; and the Trout Hall of Fame will be*  
4 *located in the Trout Nature Center, which is currently under construction in*  
5 *the Vada Sheid Community Development Center on the Arkansas State University-*  
6 *Mountain Home campus,*

7

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

10

11 *THAT the Senate congratulates Mr. Jim Gaston on his selection as the*  
12 *Arkansas Business Executive of the Year, recognizing his business*  
13 *accomplishments and acumen, and applauds his selection to the Arkansas State*  
14 *University-Mountain Home Trout Hall of Fame.*

15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate  
17 copy shall be provided to Mr. Gaston by the Secretary of the Senate.

18

19 */s/J. Key*

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36