

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Fiscal Session, 2014

SMR 1

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5 By: Senator Rapert
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7 **SENATE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

8 TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF FORMER ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER
9 ARIEL SHARON AND RECOGNIZE HIS MILITARY ACHIEVEMENTS
10 AND ROLE IN SOLIDIFYING UNITED STATES-ISRAELI
11 RELATIONS.
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14 **Subtitle**

15 TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF FORMER ISRAELI
16 PRIME MINISTER ARIEL SHARON AND RECOGNIZE
17 HIS MILITARY ACHIEVEMENTS AND ROLL IN
18 SOLIDIFYING UNITED STATES-ISRAELI
19 RELATIONS.
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22 WHEREAS, former Israeli prime minister and storied general Ariel
23 Sharon, who was at the height of his power when he suffered a stroke in 2006
24 and fell into an irreversible coma, died January 11, 2014, at the age of 85;
25 and
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27 WHEREAS, Sharon was buried on a hill overlooking his family ranch, amid
28 twin ceremonies in which he was eulogized as a courageous commander and
29 pragmatic politician who relentlessly defended the land he loved. "Like all
30 historic leaders, all real leaders, he had a North Star that guided him",
31 Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. said at a morning memorial in front of
32 Israel's Parliament building in Jerusalem. "His North Star was the survival
33 of the state of Israel and the Jewish people wherever they resided."; and
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35 WHEREAS, Sharon, the military fighter and farmer from Israel's founding
36 generation, was an iconic figure who fought in four wars before entering



1 politics; and

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3 WHEREAS, Sharon's military career flourished as he became a commander
4 in the Israeli army and was celebrated as a military strategist; he was an
5 instrumental figure in the 1956 Suez War, the Six-Day War of 1967, War of
6 Attrition, and the Yom Kippur War of 1973; and as Minister of Defense, he
7 directed the 1982 Lebanon War; and

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9 WHEREAS, Sharon was never apologetic, but always confident in what was
10 just and right for the Jewish people, and proudly proclaimed Israel's
11 interests; and

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13 WHEREAS, when first elected prime minister in 2001, Sharon was still
14 controversial in the international community and especially in the United
15 States. As world leaders worked with him, they discovered the real Sharon.
16 The special personal relationship he developed with President George W. Bush
17 was based on mutual trust and respect; and

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19 WHEREAS, during Sharon's term as prime minister, United States-Israeli
20 relations reached an all-time high in strategic and defense cooperation
21 during international crises, including American support for Operation
22 Defensive Shield and targeted counterterrorism operations in the Gaza Strip,

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24 NOW THEREFORE,

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
26 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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28 THAT the Senate honors the memory of former Israeli Prime Minister
29 Ariel Sharon and recognizes his military achievements and role in solidifying
30 United States-Israeli relations.

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32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, the Secretary
33 of the Senate shall transmit a copy to the United States Ambassador to
34 Israel.