

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015

SR 13

4
5 By: Senator E. Cheatham

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7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

8 HONORING DR. H. JACKSON LASSITER FOR HIS MANY
9 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT
10 MONTICELLO UPON HIS RETIREMENT AS CHANCELLOR.

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13 **Subtitle**

14 HONORING DR. H. JACKSON LASSITER FOR HIS
15 MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF
16 ARKANSAS AT MONTICELLO UPON HIS
17 RETIREMENT AS CHANCELLOR.

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21 WHEREAS, after more than 10 years as Chancellor of the University of
22 Arkansas at Monticello, Dr. Jack Lassiter, a native of Greenville, Texas, and
23 the first of 2 children born to parents Zelda and Harold Jackson Lassiter,
24 Sr., retired on January 5, 2015; and

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26 WHEREAS, Dr. Lassiter earned a bachelor's degree in business
27 administration from Texas A&M University-Commerce, then known as East Texas
28 State University, in 1968. He was the first in his extended family to attend
29 college; he earned his master's degree in guidance and counseling in 1969;
30 and he went on to pursue his doctorate of education degree from Texas A&M,
31 Commerce, in 1976 while serving as an adjunct instructor at Richland
32 Community College in Dallas, Texas; and

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34 WHEREAS, Dr. Lassiter first joined the University of Arkansas at
35 Monticello in 1977 as the director of the Learning Development Center; he
36 then served as dean of college and student services at Wharton County Junior



1 College in Texas for 2 years; in 1980, he returned to UAM and held the
2 position of vice chancellor for university relations and student services for
3 13 years and vice chancellor for academic affairs for 4 years; and
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5 WHEREAS, Dr. Lassiter served as Chancellor of the University of
6 Arkansas Community College at Batesville from 1997-2001 and as the vice
7 president of the University of Arkansas System in Little Rock, Arkansas from
8 2001-2004; and
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10 WHEREAS, Dr. Lassiter returned to UAM in 2004 as the 11th chancellor of
11 the university and held the position until his retirement in 2015; he had the
12 distinction of leading the institution during its centennial celebration from
13 April 1, 2009, to September 14, 2010; and
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15 WHEREAS, some of Dr. Lassiter's many accomplishments as chancellor at
16 UAM include the Taylor House and Hollywood Plantation revitalization project;
17 the remodeling of Convoy Leslie-Cotton Boll Stadium; the construction of the
18 indoor practice facility for athletics, the marching band, and intramurals;
19 renovations to the baseball and softball complexes; the creation of the
20 Centennial Circle Endowment and the construction of the Centennial Clock
21 Tower; the remodeling of Bankston Hall, Wells Hall, and Sorrells Hall; the
22 purchase and remodeling of the Trotter House Bed and Breakfast; and the
23 expansion of the George H. Clippert Forest Resources Annex; and
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25 WHEREAS, one of Dr. Lassiter's most popular achievements is the
26 rehabilitation of the Weevil Pond, which provides the university and
27 community a tailgating atmosphere before Boll Weevil football games, and more
28 importantly, a lasting tradition; and
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30 WHEREAS, Dr. Lassiter made significant curriculum changes at UAM,
31 including the creation of online master's degrees and upgrades to existing
32 programs; the curriculum changes allow the university to assist students
33 through technical certificates all the way to master's degrees; and
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35 WHEREAS, while Dr. Lassiter served as chancellor at UAM, he
36 reestablished a meaningful relationship between the university and the

1 surrounding community, strengthening the university's mission as an open
2 admissions university and creating a welcoming atmosphere that encourages the
3 community to feel connected to the university; and

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5 WHEREAS Dr. Lassiter established stronger alumni relationships,
6 instilled an unprecedented level of transparency in university operations,
7 and saw a meaningful growth in the university's enrollment; and

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9 WHEREAS during Dr. Lassiter's 28 years at UAM, he shared a special bond
10 with the institution, students, and community; he helped establish a school
11 spirit that permeates the campus and community, making people proud to ask,
12 "Do you have what it takes to be a Boll Weevil?"; and

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14 WHEREAS, Dr. Lassiter and his wife, Judy, are proud to have chosen
15 Monticello to call home and will continue to reside in Monticello after Dr.
16 Lassiter's retirement,

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18 NOW THEREFORE,

19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE
20 OF ARKANSAS:

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22 THAT Dr. H. Jackson Lassiter be commended for his many contributions to
23 the University of Arkansas at Monticello and the community.

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution an
26 appropriate copy be provided to Dr. Lassiter by the Secretary of the Senate.

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