

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017

HCR 1009

4
5 By: Representatives G. McGill, Boyd, C. Douglas, Eubanks, C. Fite, Pitsch, Richmond
6 By: Senators Files, Rice

7
8 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

9 RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY MR. BERT
10 GARRETT HENDRIX, JR., TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND
11 DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND
12 ADMINISTRATION TO NAME THE 616 GARRISON BUILDING IN
13 FORT SMITH IN HIS HONOR.

14
15
16 **Subtitle**

17 RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY MR.
18 BERT GARRETT HENDRIX, JR., TO THE STATE
19 OF ARKANSAS AND DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT
20 OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION TO NAME THE
21 616 GARRISON BUILDING IN FORT SMITH IN
22 HIS HONOR.

23
24
25 WHEREAS, Mr. Bert Garrett Hendrix, Jr., known as "B.G." or "Beagle",
26 was born on December 16, 1922, in the Arkansas community of Jenny Lind, to
27 loving parents; and

28
29 WHEREAS, Mr. Hendrix attended Arkansas primary and secondary schools,
30 as well as Arkansas institutions of higher education; and

31
32 WHEREAS, Mr. Hendrix became a licensed funeral director before the
33 Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941; and in 1941, he enlisted in the United
34 States Coast Guard, in which he served three (3) years, helped to save lives,
35 and received many awards and citations for his service; and

36



1 WHEREAS, while stationed in Delaware, Mr. Hendrix met Janis Williams,
2 who became his wife, and they shared a loving marriage and life together for
3 more than sixty (60) years, raising two (2) children together and welcoming
4 many grandchildren and great-grandchildren along the way; and

5
6 WHEREAS, after the war, Mr. Hendrix owned and operated the first
7 ambulance service in Arkansas for ten (10) years; and

8
9 WHEREAS, Mr. Hendrix dedicated his life to public service, serving over
10 forty (40) years in various capacities; became the first civil defense
11 coordinator in Sebastian County, Arkansas; and served on the Sebastian County
12 Quorum Court, as the Sebastian County Coroner, and briefly as Sebastian
13 County Sheriff, Attorney General, and acting Governor; and

14
15 WHEREAS, Mr. Hendrix was first elected to the House of Representatives
16 in 1963, and he served seventeen (17) consecutive terms for a total of
17 thirty-four (34) years; and

18
19 WHEREAS, while in the House of Representatives, he served as Speaker of
20 the House and served on many committees; and while serving as Speaker of the
21 House, he was elected by other Speakers of the House of Representatives from
22 other states to represent the group in Taiwan; and

23
24 WHEREAS, throughout his life, Speaker Hendrix has been involved with
25 countless civic organizations, charitable causes, and veterans' affairs; and

26
27 WHEREAS, Speaker Hendrix always gave of himself to help others and to
28 expand education and economic development opportunities for his region and
29 the entire state; and

30
31 WHEREAS, Speaker Hendrix, among many measures, sponsored legislation
32 that gave citizens the right to levy a countywide sales tax to pay for city
33 and county improvements; authored legislation that created a prison industry
34 program, saving taxpayers millions of dollars; helped create the UAMS -
35 Arkansas Health Education Centers to train doctors and provide medical
36 services for the underserved; consistently promoted adult education and the

1 GED program; played an integral role in the maintenance and expansion of Lake
2 Fort Smith State Park and Devil's Den State Park; created the Silver Haired
3 Legislature to give senior citizens a forum in government; led the fight to
4 establish a boot camp for first-time offenders; and sponsored legislation to
5 have white stripes applied to all paved two-lane roads, saving countless
6 lives over the years; and

7
8 WHEREAS, Speaker Hendrix always emphasized the need for government to
9 provide a better quality of life for the citizens of the state; and

10
11 WHEREAS, Speaker Hendrix said, "The best way to exercise your heart is
12 to reach down and pick someone up", and throughout his service in Arkansas,
13 he exemplified that phrase; and

14
15 WHEREAS, Speaker Hendrix said, "I never misplaced the people's trust in
16 any way. I have been able to touch so many lives and improve the quality of
17 life for poor and rich alike"; and

18
19 WHEREAS, Speaker Hendrix was instrumental in securing the 616 Garrison
20 Building in Fort Smith, a state office building,

21
22 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-
23 FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING
24 THEREIN:

25
26 That the individual members of the House of Representatives express
27 their recognition of and appreciation for the dedication and hard work
28 Speaker B.G. Hendrix gave to the citizens of the state and direct the
29 Department of Finance and Administration to name the 616 Garrison Building in
30 Fort Smith, Arkansas, in his honor.

31
32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon the adoption of the resolution, a copy
33 shall be provided to Speaker B.G. Hendrix and to the Director of the
34 Department of Finance and Administration by the Chief Clerk of the House of
35 Representatives.

36