

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

SCMR 2

4  
5 By: Senators Bond, Hickey, Maloch  
6 By: Representatives Tucker, Sabin, Walker

7  
8 **SENATE CONCURRENT MEMORIAL**  
9 **RESOLUTION**

10 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF JUSTICE DONALD CORBIN AND IN  
11 RECOGNITION OF HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF  
12 ARKANSAS.

13  
14  
15 **Subtitle**

16 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF JUSTICE DONALD  
17 CORBIN AND IN RECOGNITION OF HIS MANY  
18 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

19  
20  
21 WHEREAS, Justice Donald Louis Corbin, born on March 29, 1938, in Hot  
22 Springs, Arkansas, died on December 12, 2016, at the age of 78; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, Justice Corbin graduated from Lewisville High School in 1956,  
25 where he played football and was a national champion poultry judge with the  
26 Future Farmers of America; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, Justice Corbin, after serving in the United States Marine  
29 Corps, graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1963 with a degree in  
30 history and sociology before earning his law degree from the University of  
31 Arkansas in 1966; and

32  
33 WHEREAS, after graduating from law school, Justice Corbin practiced law  
34 in De Queen, Arkansas; Lewisville, Arkansas; and Stamps, Arkansas; and

35  
36 WHEREAS, Justice Corbin won his first political race for city attorney



1 of Lewisville, Arkansas, and subsequently won every other political race he  
2 entered, 6 for municipal or legislative offices, and 5 for appellate  
3 judgeships; and

4  
5 WHEREAS, in 1971, Justice Corbin was elected to the Arkansas House of  
6 Representatives, where he served as a voice for rural communities, proving  
7 instrumental in passing the Rural Medical Practice Act, obtaining public  
8 television services for outlying regions, and securing funding for the  
9 neonatal unit at Arkansas Children’s Hospital; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, in 1980, Justice Corbin was elected to the Arkansas Court of  
12 Appeals, where he served for 10 years, spending the last 4 years as Chief  
13 Judge; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, in 1990, Justice Corbin was elected to the Arkansas Supreme  
16 Court, where he served as an Associate Justice for 24 years before he retired  
17 in December 2014; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, Justice Corbin will always be remembered by his friends as one  
20 who told stories about his children, whether it was standing in freezing  
21 weather to watch their games or being the house parent for his daughter’s  
22 soccer camp; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, Governor Asa Hutchison expressed his condolences to Justice  
25 Corbin’s family, stating that Corbin “always acted with integrity”; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, former Arkansas Supreme Court Justice Paul Danielson, who  
28 served on the Arkansas Supreme Court with Justice Corbin, recently stated  
29 that Corbin’s career will “never be duplicated,” and called him a “tremendous  
30 judge”; and

31  
32 WHEREAS, Justice Danielson was “deeply saddened” to hear of his  
33 friend’s passing, stating, “He put the Court above himself and above  
34 politics, and he always did what he believed was right, never fearing public  
35 criticism”; and

1           WHEREAS, Arkansas Supreme Court Chief Justice Howard Brill has stated  
2 that Justice Corbin’s “booming presence will be missed in the halls of  
3 justice”; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, former Arkansas Supreme Court Justice Robert L. Brown praised  
6 Justice Corbin’s ability to cut the tension during oral arguments, stating  
7 that he “had more personality than everybody on the court put together”; and  
8

9           WHEREAS, Justice Corbin experienced many health problems throughout his  
10 judicial career, undergoing many treatments and surgeries for 2 types of  
11 cancer and heart, arterial, and gastric ailments, but he rarely missed a week  
12 of opinion writing, penning over 1,150 opinions during his time as a jurist;  
13 and  
14

15           WHEREAS, despite Justice Corbin’s prolonged health problems, he was  
16 able to fulfill many dreams, including performing his son Kyle’s wedding  
17 ceremony; swearing his daughter Jennifer in as an attorney; walking his  
18 daughter Allison down the aisle; meeting and falling in love with his  
19 granddaughter, Emerson Claire; seeing his son Slater finish his first  
20 semester of graduate school; and seeing his daughter Ashley master 3  
21 languages and travel fearlessly across 4 continents and 28 countries; and  
22

23           WHEREAS, Justice Corbin is predeceased by his parents, Louis Emerson  
24 and Louise Corbin, his son Byron Corbin, and his brother Glen Corbin; and  
25

26           WHEREAS, Justice Corbin is survived by his wife, Dorcy Kyle Corbin, and  
27 their children; son Kyle Corbin and daughter-in-law Amanda Corbin of Denver,  
28 Colorado; daughter Jennifer Corbin of Little Rock, Arkansas; daughter Allison  
29 and son-in-law Addison Anthony of Little Rock, Arkansas; son Slater Corbin of  
30 Little Rock, Arkansas; daughter Ashley Corbin of Denver, Colorado; and  
31 granddaughter Emerson Claire Anthony of Little Rock, Arkansas,  
32

33 NOW THEREFORE,

34 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
35 STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:  
36

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31  
32  
33  
34  
35  
36

THAT the General Assembly remembers and commends Justice Donald Louis Corbin for his hard work, dedication, and many contributions to the State of Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the individual members of the General Assembly hereby express sincere condolences to the family of Justice Donald Louis Corbin and upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy shall be provided to the family of Justice Corbin by the Secretary of the Senate.