

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

HMR 1004

By: Representative Lundstrum

HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

TO REMEMBER BRENDA JOYCE BLAGG AND TO HONOR HER
DEDICATION TO JOURNALISM, THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
ACT OF 1967 IN ARKANSAS, AND THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

Subtitle

TO REMEMBER BRENDA JOYCE BLAGG AND TO
HONOR HER DEDICATION TO JOURNALISM, THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT OF 1967, AND
THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, Brenda Joyce Blagg of Fayetteville, Arkansas, died on December 11, 2022, at the age of seventy-five (75), and was a well-known Arkansas journalist and defender of the Freedom of Information Act of 1967; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Blagg, was born, May 3, 1947, and as a native of Newport, Arkansas, came to the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville to study journalism and rose to the editorship of the Arkansas Traveler, the campus newspaper; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Blagg, upon graduation, joined the Springdale News and began a lengthy career as a journalist; and

WHEREAS, in 1979, Ms. Blagg began a political column, "Between The Lines," which ran until her health declined in October 2022 and this column was one of the longest, continuous weekly columns in the state's modern history; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Blagg was also a frequent guest journalist on the Arkansas



1 Educational Television Network's "Arkansas Week", for decades; and

2
3 WHEREAS, Ms. Blagg took a great interest in the Northwest Arkansas
4 Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and its subsequent
5 scholarship fundraiser variety show, "Gridiron", a yearly theatrical
6 production spoofing the past year's political leaders, events, and general
7 politics of the state; and

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9 WHEREAS, Ms. Blagg played a well-known Ozark hill woman, Letitia Mae
10 Stufflebeam, in these standup comedy sketches spoofing the political themes
11 of the day, which are still playing on YouTube channels today; and

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13 WHEREAS, Ms. Blagg was also known as a quiet and serious soul,
14 attending to the public needs of the state and region and she is credited by
15 many for inspiring others, especially young women to pursue careers in
16 journalism and to uphold the Freedom of Information Act of 1967,

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18 NOW THEREFORE,

19 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL
20 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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22 THAT the House of Representatives remember Brenda Joyce Blagg and honor
23 her life and contributions to the State of Arkansas.

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be
26 provided to Ms. Blagg's family by the Chief Clerk of the House of
27 Representatives.