

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023

HR 1006

4  
5 By: Representatives Richmond, Maddox  
6

7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 TO COMMEND MR. BILL RHODES ON HIS EFFORTS ON THE  
9 PASSAGE OF THE PROMISE TO ADDRESS COMPREHENSIVE  
10 TOXICS ACT.  
11

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13 **Subtitle**

14 TO COMMEND MR. BILL RHODES ON HIS EFFORTS  
15 ON THE PASSAGE OF THE PROMISE TO ADDRESS  
16 COMPREHENSIVE TOXICS ACT.  
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18  
19 WHEREAS, Mr. Bill Rhodes, from Mena, Arkansas, was instrumental in the  
20 passage of the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics "PACT" Act; and  
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22 WHEREAS, Mr. Rhodes, who joined the military in 1968, was stationed at  
23 Royal Thai Air Base Nam Phong in Nam Phong, Thailand, where tactical  
24 herbicides were used; and  
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26 WHEREAS, after more than a decade of service, Mr. Rhodes exited  
27 military service with the rank of staff sergeant and subsequently developed  
28 heart disease, prostate cancer, and diabetes, which he attributed to exposure  
29 to tactical herbicides used while on the military base; and  
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31 WHEREAS, Mr. Rhodes was denied services by the United States Department  
32 of Veterans Affairs stating that Mr. Rhodes did not qualify under the Agent  
33 Orange Act of 1991 or any subsequent laws; and  
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35 WHEREAS, in 2017 and 2019, Mr. Rhodes worked with United States Senator  
36 John Boozman who introduced legislation expanding eligibility of military



1 service members harmed by exposure to chemicals and herbicides while serving  
2 in the military; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, in 2021, Senator Boozman again introduced legislation and  
5 working in a bi-partisan manner and with the tireless efforts of Mr. Rhodes,  
6 his proposed legislation was enacted and signed into law by President Joe  
7 Biden in August of 2022 with Mr. Rhodes present for the signing; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, in championing this bill before the United States Congress,  
10 Mr. Rhodes spent countless hours in Washington D.C. and during the summer of  
11 2022, spent two (2) weeks in Washington D.C. and had fifty-seven (57)  
12 meetings in nine (9) days with members of the House of Representatives and  
13 the Senate or their staffs.

14  
15 NOW THEREFORE,

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

18  
19 THAT the House of Representatives commend Mr. Bill Rhodes for his  
20 service and dedication to the members of the military service in his efforts  
21 to support the needs of veterans by championing the passage of the Promise to  
22 Address Comprehensive Toxics Act.

23  
24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be  
25 provided to Mr. Bill Rhodes by the Chief Clerk of the House of  
26 Representatives.