

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

HR 1080

4  
5 By: Representative M. Shepherd

6  
7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 CONGRATULATING FINOS B. "BUDDY" JOHNSON, HOUSE OF  
9 REPRESENTATIVES PARLIAMENTARIAN, UPON HIS RETIREMENT  
10 AND COMMENDING HIM FOR HIS THIRTY-EIGHTY YEARS OF  
11 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND TO  
12 THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

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15 **Subtitle**

16 CONGRATULATING FINOS B. "BUDDY" JOHNSON,  
17 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PARLIAMENTARIAN,  
18 UPON HIS RETIREMENT AND COMMENDING HIM  
19 FOR HIS THIRTY-EIGHTY YEARS OF  
20 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

21  
22 WHEREAS, Mr. Finos B. "Buddy" Johnson, a native of Ashdown, Arkansas,  
23 began his career with the House of Representatives on May 30, 1985, and after  
24 thirty-eight (38) years will retire on June 30, 2023; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, Buddy Johnson graduated from the University of Arkansas at  
27 Fayetteville with a Bachelor's degree in Journalism and worked at several  
28 news organizations in the State of Arkansas prior to starting his tenure with  
29 the House of Representatives; and

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31 WHEREAS, Buddy Johnson's first position with the House of  
32 Representatives was as the Information Director, and then in 1999, Buddy was  
33 promoted to the position of Coordinator of Legislative Services; and

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35 WHEREAS, during his tenure as the Coordinator of Legislative Services,  
36 Buddy Johnson became well versed in parliamentary procedures and the Rules of



1 the House of Representatives and became a member of the National Association  
2 of Parliamentarians and the American Institute of Parliamentarians; and

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4 WHEREAS, in July of 2012, Buddy Johnson was promoted to the position of  
5 House of Representatives Parliamentarian; and

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7 WHEREAS, since 2014 Buddy Johnson has been an active member of the  
8 American Society of Legislative Clerks and Secretaries (ASLCS) of the  
9 National Conference of State Legislatures; and

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11 WHEREAS, during his tenure with the ASLCS, Buddy served as the Chair of  
12 the Bylaws and Standing Orders Committee and the Chair of the Inside the  
13 Legislative Process Committee and was instrumental in hosting the successful  
14 2022 Annual ASLCS Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas; and

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16 WHEREAS, Buddy Johnson has an extensive resume, but what makes Buddy  
17 excel in his role are the intangible qualities that come so naturally to him,  
18 such as his willingness to collaborate, thoughtful responses, measured  
19 approach to crises that arise, impartiality, and utmost professionalism; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, during Buddy Johnson's tenure as parliamentarian, he has  
22 worked with four (4) different Speakers of the House of Representatives and  
23 six (6) General Assemblies and served each member during these past eleven  
24 (11) years in a manner that exemplifies his commitment to public service; and

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26 WHEREAS, Buddy Johnson has forged strong relationships and friendships  
27 with not only his House of Representatives colleagues, but also with  
28 colleagues from the Senate and the Bureau of Legislative Research; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, while Buddy Johnson will be greatly missed by the General  
31 Assembly, his retirement will allow him to spend more time with his wife  
32 Elizabeth and his two (2) sons Findley and Layet; and

33  
34 WHEREAS, Steve Cook, the Arkansas Senate Parliamentarian stated "I  
35 greatly appreciate the working relationship I have experienced with Buddy  
36 Johnson. He restored a collaborative spirit of working together with the

1 Senate and the Bureau of Legislative Research that benefitted the legislative  
2 process. The House of Representatives is a better place thanks to Buddy's  
3 humility and professionalism."; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, Speaker of the House of Representatives Matthew Shepherd  
6 stated "Buddy Johnson has been an invaluable part of the House staff. In  
7 addition to assisting in the orderly operation of the House during regular,  
8 special, and fiscal sessions, he has provided counsel in navigating  
9 Constitutional questions, procedural issues, and in the House conducting  
10 business during the midst of a global pandemic. His impact on the House is  
11 tremendous and he will be greatly missed.",  
12

13 NOW THEREFORE,

14 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL  
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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17 THAT the House of Representatives commend Finos B. "Buddy" Johnson for  
18 his distinguished service to the State of Arkansas and the legislative branch  
19 of government, thank him for his countless contributions, and wish him all  
20 the best in his retirement.  
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, upon adoption, the Chief Clerk of the House of  
23 Representatives provide a copy of this resolution to Buddy Johnson.  
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