

State of Arkansas *As Engrossed: H4/1/25*  
95th General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2025

HMR 1008

By: Representatives Duffield, *Duke*

## HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

TO REMEMBER BOXER TOMMY MORRISON OF GRAVETTE FOR HIS  
LEGENDARY BOXING SKILLS THAT BROUGHT RENOWN TO HIM  
AND TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

### Subtitle

TO REMEMBER BOXER TOMMY MORRISON OF  
GRAVETTE FOR HIS LEGENDARY BOXING SKILLS  
THAT BROUGHT RENOWN TO HIM AND TO THE  
STATE OF ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, Tommy "The Duke" Morrison, formerly of Omaha, Nebraska, passed  
away on September 1, 2013, at the age of forty-four (44); and

WHEREAS, Tommy "The Duke" Morrison was born in Gravette, Arkansas, on  
January 2, 1969, to a mother, Diana, of Native American ancestry and a  
father, Tim, of Scottish ancestry; and

WHEREAS, Tommy "The Duke" Morrison spent his teenage years in Oklahoma,  
and his father encouraged him to take up boxing during the 1970s, a sport in  
which Morrison found immediate success; and

WHEREAS, Tommy "The Duke" Morrison acquired his nickname, "The Duke",  
based on a claim that he was a distant relative of famed actor Marion "John  
Wayne" Morrison, who was also nicknamed "The Duke"; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, Tommy "The Duke" Morrison  
received a football scholarship to Emporia State University, and in the same



1 year won the Regional Heavy Weight Title, Kansas City Golden Gloves, and  
2 advanced to the National Golden Gloves in Omaha, Nebraska, where he won the  
3 majority of his fights; and  
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5 WHEREAS, also in that same year, Tommy "The Duke" Morrison took part in  
6 the Western Olympic trials, qualified for the nationals, and garnered the  
7 tournament's Outstanding Fighter award; and  
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9 WHEREAS, Tommy "The Duke" Morrison had accumulated numerous wins as a  
10 boxer when he was spotted in 1989 by actor Sylvester Stallone, who, after  
11 watching one of Morrison's bouts, arranged a script reading and cast Morrison  
12 in the film "Rocky V" as Tommy "The Machine" Gunn, a young and talented  
13 protege of retired main character Rocky Balboa; and  
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15 WHEREAS, among his many victories, Tommy "The Duke" Morrison became the  
16 new World Boxing Organization heavyweight champion in 1993 by defeating  
17 heavyweight boxing legend George Foreman; and  
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19 WHEREAS, Tommy "The Duke" Morrison's professional boxing record  
20 encompassed fifty-two (52) fights, of which he won forty-eight and lost three  
21 (48-3), and his amateur boxing record encompassed two hundred twenty-two  
22 fights, of which he won two hundred two and lost twenty (202-20); and  
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24 WHEREAS, the World Boxing Organization said Tommy "The Duke" Morrison  
25 would be remembered best for his dangerous punching power and especially his  
26 left hook, and two-time heavyweight champion Pinklon Thomas ranked Morrison  
27 ahead of Mike Tyson as the hardest puncher he had ever faced,  
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29 NOW THEREFORE,

30 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL  
31 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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33 THAT the House of Representatives remember boxer Tommy Morrison of  
34 Gravette for his legendary boxing skills that brought renown to him and to  
35 the State of Arkansas.  
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be  
2 presented to Tommy "The Duke" Morrison's son, Kenzie Morrison, by the Chief  
3 Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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5 */s/Duffield*  
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