

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025

HMR 1009

4
5 By: Representative J. Moore
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8 HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

9 TO REMEMBER FORMER SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
10 REPRESENTATIVES BENNY PETRUS FOR HIS SERVICE TO HIS
11 COMMUNITY AND TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.
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14 Subtitle

15 TO REMEMBER FORMER SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
16 OF REPRESENTATIVES BENNY PETRUS FOR HIS
17 SERVICE TO HIS COMMUNITY AND TO THE
18 STATE OF ARKANSAS.
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20 WHEREAS, former Speaker of the House of Representatives Benny Charles
21 Petrus, formerly of Stuttgart, Arkansas, passed away Friday, May 17, 2024, at
22 the age of sixty-seven (67); and
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24 WHEREAS, former Speaker Petrus was born November 23, 1956, in
25 Stuttgart, to Bernard and Earline Petrus; and
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27 WHEREAS, former Speaker Petrus lived in Stuttgart his entire life and
28 was a 1975 graduate of Stuttgart High School; and
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30 WHEREAS, former Speaker Petrus attended the University of Central
31 Arkansas in Conway and became a successful businessman, owning several car
32 dealerships in Stuttgart, Arkansas, owning several farms and other
33 businesses, and serving as President and Chief Executive Officer of Adams
34 Fertilizer Equipment Company in DeWitt, Arkansas; and
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36 WHEREAS, former Speaker Petrus's life was a family affair, reflected in



1 the fact that he started in the car business with his dad, B.J., and his
2 brother, Steve, and that later his wife, Tammy, and brother, Dwayne, joined
3 the business; and
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5 WHEREAS, former Speaker Petrus's son, Justin, stepped into the family
6 business after graduating from college, and former Speaker Petrus loved
7 farming and formed a successful farming operation with his son, Jonathan,
8 because everyday life for former Speaker Petrus involved all family members;
9 and
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11 WHEREAS, former Speaker Petrus served in the House of Representatives
12 from 2002 through 2009 and served as Speaker of the House of Representatives
13 during 2007 through 2009; and
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15 WHEREAS, in 2022, former Speaker Petrus was selected to become a board
16 member for Summit Utilities, and he also served on the board of the Stuttgart
17 branch of the Baptist Hospital Foundation; and
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19 WHEREAS, former Speaker Petrus was an avid fisherman and hunter, and
20 regularly gathered with friends for annual hunting trips; and
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22 WHEREAS, former Representative Marvin Childers recalled of his time
23 working with former Speaker Petrus in the House of Representatives that
24 "Benny . . . just loved helping people and he was interested in anything
25 agriculture . . . He took the lead when it came to funding for the community
26 college at Stuttgart . . . education was important to him . . . [and] Benny
27 worked across the aisle [in the House of Representatives] . . . he didn't
28 care whether you were a Democrat, Republican, or independent, as long as you
29 would do the right thing"; and
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31 WHEREAS, former Speaker Petrus is survived by his wife, Tammy Petrus,
32 and his two sons, Jonathan and Justin Petrus, all of Stuttgart,
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34 NOW THEREFORE,

35 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL
36 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

1
2 THAT the House of Representatives remember former Speaker of the House
3 Benny Petrus for his service to his community and to the State of Arkansas.
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be
6 provided to the family of former Speaker Petrus.
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