

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Second Extraordinary Session, 2024

HMR 1002

4  
5 By: Representative M. McElroy

6  
7 **HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

8 TO HONOR THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF G. ERNEST  
9 CUNNINGHAM.

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11  
12 **Subtitle**

13 TO HONOR THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF G.  
14 ERNEST CUNNINGHAM.

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16  
17 WHEREAS, G. Ernest Cunningham, former Speaker of the Arkansas House of  
18 Representatives and long-serving member of the General Assembly, died on June  
19 11, 2024, in Little Rock, Arkansas, at eighty-seven (87) years of age; and

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21 WHEREAS, G. Ernest Cunningham grew up in Barton, Arkansas; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, G. Ernest Cunningham attended the University of Arkansas  
24 where he:

25 (1) Was a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity, serving a term as  
26 president; and

27 (2) Graduated with a degree in accounting in 1960; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, after graduating from the University of Arkansas, G. Ernest  
30 Cunningham returned to Helena, where he worked for Cunningham, Inc. for many  
31 years, first with his father, Gordon, and later with his brother, Joe Tom;  
32 and

33  
34 WHEREAS, G. Ernest Cunningham represented Helena-West Helena and part  
35 of eastern Arkansas in the Arkansas House of Representatives from 1969 to  
36 1999; and



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2 WHEREAS, after he left the Arkansas House of Representatives, G. Ernest  
3 Cunningham was a lobbyist for clients that included Arkansas Health Care  
4 Association, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., and Arkansans for Better Schools; and  
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6 WHEREAS, G. Ernest Cunningham spent many hours working to improve the  
7 quality of life for everyone in Helena, Phillips County, and the Delta; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, G. Ernest Cunningham was instrumental in the development of  
10 the:

- 11 (1) Helena-West Helena-Phillips County Port Authority;  
12 (2) Helena River Park;  
13 (3) Delta Cultural Center;  
14 (3) Civil War Trail, as a member of the Arkansas Civil War  
15 Sesquicentennial Commission;  
16 (4) KIPP Delta Public Schools; and  
17 (5) Restoration of several historic sites in Helena; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, G. Ernest Cunningham received many honors, including induction  
20 into the Arkansas Tourism Hall of Fame, the Phillips County Chamber of  
21 Commerce Citizen of the Year, and the Rotary Paul Harris Fellow; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, G. Ernest Cunningham is survived by his wife Cathy  
24 Cunningham, his two (2) sons Cotter Cunningham (Edie Rogat) and Baker  
25 Cunningham (Ashley Cunningham), and five (5) grandchildren,  
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27 NOW THEREFORE,

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

30  
31 THAT the House of Representatives express sincere condolences to the  
32 family of G. Ernest Cunningham and commend his contributions to Arkansas.  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution shall be  
35 provided to the family of G. Ernest Cunningham by the Chief Clerk of the  
36 House of Representatives.