

1 State of Arkansas  
2 90th General Assembly  
3 Fiscal Session, 2016

HMR 1001

4  
5 By: Representatives Lowery, Bragg, Tucker

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7 **HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

8 REMEMBERING RAYMOND HOYT THORNTON, JR., AND HIS MANY  
9 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

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12 **Subtitle**

13 REMEMBERING RAYMOND HOYT THORNTON, JR.,  
14 AND HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE  
15 OF ARKANSAS.

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19 WHEREAS, Raymond Hoyt "Ray" Thornton, Jr., born on June 16, 1928, in  
20 Conway, Arkansas, died on April 13, 2016; and

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22 WHEREAS, Mr. Thornton graduated from Sheridan High School and earned a  
23 degree in political science from Yale University before receiving a Juris  
24 Doctor degree from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 1956; and

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26 WHEREAS, Mr. Thornton served in the United States Navy during the  
27 Korean War, during which he reached the rank of lieutenant; and

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29 WHEREAS, Mr. Thornton enjoyed a breathtaking career in public service,  
30 serving as Attorney General from 1971 to 1973, United States Representative  
31 for Arkansas's 4th District from 1973 to 1979, and United States  
32 Representative for Arkansas's 2nd District from 1991 to 1997; also serving as  
33 a Justice of the Supreme Court from 1997 to 2005; was president of two (2)  
34 public universities, Arkansas State University from 1980 to 1984 and the  
35 University of Arkansas at Fayetteville from 1984 to 1990; and in 2009, was  
36 the interim chair of the Arkansas Lottery Commission; and



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2 WHEREAS, while in Congress, Mr. Thornton served on the House Judiciary  
3 Committee that investigated the Watergate break-ins that led to the  
4 resignation of President Richard Nixon; and he was among six (6) bipartisan  
5 committee members who drafted articles of impeachment against Mr. Nixon; and  
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7 WHEREAS, Governor Asa Hutchinson called Mr. Thornton an "Arkansas gem  
8 who passionately served the people of this state for many years. He was a man  
9 who had a genuine heart for the people of Arkansas. Every time I saw Ray, he  
10 had a smile and a word of encouragement", Hutchinson said. "He will be  
11 greatly missed, and my heart goes out to his family and loved ones."; and  
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13 WHEREAS, former Governor Mike Beebe said he and his wife, Ginger, were  
14 saddened to learn of Mr. Thornton's death, saying "He was a gentleman, who  
15 always wore a smile and welcomed everyone he met with civility and a warm  
16 heart. But he was most admired for his intellect, his integrity, his  
17 leadership abilities, and his passion for serving the people of our state."; and  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, United States Representative French Hill noted that Mr.  
20 Thornton, a veteran of the Korean War, dedicated his entire adult life to  
21 service of his state and nation, stating "He was a true gentlemen and an  
22 outstanding leader who used his drive, wit, and energy to represent our  
23 citizens and improve higher educational opportunity for our young people.  
24 Though he will be greatly missed by many throughout Arkansas, his countless  
25 contributions will live on for many years to come.",  
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27 NOW THEREFORE,

28 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL  
29 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

30  
31 THAT the House of Representatives remembers and commends Raymond Hoyt  
32 "Ray" Thornton, Jr., for his many contributions to the State of Arkansas.  
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate  
35 copy be provided to the family of Mr. Thornton by the Chief Clerk of the  
36 House of Representatives.