

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
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HMR 1006

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By: Representatives J. Richardson, F. Allen, Ennett, K. Ferguson, V. Flowers, Nicks, Scott, T. Shephard,  
Springer

## HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

9 TO REMEMBER SENATOR ROY C. "BILL" LEWELLEN, JR. AND  
10 TO RECOGNIZE HIS DEDICATED SERVICE AND INVALUABLE  
11 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND TO HIS  
12 LOCAL COMMUNITY.

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### Subtitle

15 TO REMEMBER SENATOR ROY C. "BILL"  
16 LEWELLEN, JR. AND TO RECOGNIZE HIS  
17 DEDICATED SERVICE AND INVALUABLE  
18 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS  
19 AND TO HIS LOCAL COMMUNITY.  
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21

22 WHEREAS, former Arkansas State Senator Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen, Jr. of  
23 Marianna passed away on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at the age of 71; and

24

25 WHEREAS, born on November 18, 1951, Bill Lewellen was the son of Roy C.  
26 Lewellen Sr. and Ethel Brewer, the nephew of Arkansas State Representative  
27 John Lewellen and State Representative Wilhelmina Lewellen, and the cousin of  
28 former United States Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater; and

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30 WHEREAS, Bill Lewellen received his bachelor's degree from the Arkansas  
31 Agricultural, Mechanical, and Normal College (AM&N College), now the  
32 University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, and his Juris Doctor from the  
33 University of Arkansas at Little Rock, William H. Bowen School of Law; and

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35 WHEREAS, Bill Lewellen was first elected to the Arkansas Senate in 1990  
36 and was the second Black person to serve in the Arkansas Senate in the 20th



1 century; and

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3 WHEREAS, prior to his election to the Arkansas Senate, Bill Lewellen  
4 served on the Marianna City Council; and

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6 WHEREAS, Senator Lewellen represented eastern Arkansas from 1991  
7 through 2000, served on the Senate Insurance and Commerce Committee and the  
8 Senate Judiciary Committee, was Senate co-chair of the Joint Legislative  
9 Facilities Committee, vice chair of the Senate Rules Committee, and a member  
10 of the Joint Budget Committee and the Joint Performance Review Committee; and

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12 WHEREAS, during his tenure with the Arkansas Senate, Senator Lewellen  
13 sponsored historic legislation that included legislation that created the  
14 Arkansas Minority Health Commission and the Arkansas Civil Rights Act of  
15 1993; and

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17 WHEREAS, Senator Lewellen was a founding member and later served a term  
18 as chair of the Arkansas Legislative Black Caucus, during which he led the  
19 Caucus to challenge state retirement funds to invest with minority money  
20 managers and firms, as well as companies lobbying the legislature to hire  
21 African American lobbyists; and

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23 WHEREAS, in 1992, Senator Lewellen served as an attorney for the Lake  
24 View School District in its fight for an equitable and efficient public  
25 school system and after years of litigation, the state Supreme Court ruled in  
26 favor of the Lake View School District, citing the state's constitutional  
27 duty to provide all Arkansas children with an adequate and equitable  
28 education, regardless of the prosperity or poverty of the region in which  
29 they lived; and

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31 WHEREAS, after leaving the Arkansas Senate, Bill Lewellen continued to  
32 advocate for small, rural school districts facing consolidation and  
33 inequitable treatment as one (1) of only two (2) Black lawyers in Lee County;  
34 and

35  
36 WHEREAS, Bill Lewellen fought to represent his clients and to help

1 remedy injustices wherever he could and his dedication led him to receive  
2 numerous local, state, and national recognitions throughout his lifetime; and  
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4 WHEREAS, Senator Lewellen was preceded in death by his wife of forty-  
5 three (43) years, Doris Ann Brantley Lewellen; and  
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7 WHEREAS, while Senator Lewellen was committed to improving the lives of  
8 all Arkansans, he was well-known as being a devoted father and mentor to his  
9 children Adrienne Lewellen, Roy Lewellen, III, Michael Lewellen, Marcus  
10 Lewellen, Marco Lewellen, and Marshall Lewellen, as well as a loving  
11 grandfather to his six (6) grandchildren,  
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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 remember Senator Bill Lewellen and  
18 recognize his commitment to hard work, enormous contributions, and service to  
19 the State of Arkansas and his local community.  
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be  
22 provided to the family of Roy C. "Bill" Lewellen, Jr. by the Chief Clerk of  
23 the House of Representatives.  
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