

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

HMR 1004

4  
5 By: Representatives Steele, F. Allen, Barnes, Joey Carr, Clowney, A. Collins, Dalby, Ennett, D. Garner,  
6 Gonzales Worthen, Henley, Holcomb, Hudson, McCullough, McGruder, J. Richardson, T. Shephard, M.  
7 Shepherd, Steimel, Warren, Wing

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10 **HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

11 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF FORMER ARKANSAS ATTORNEY  
12 GENERAL, UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN, AND FORTY-THIRD  
13 GOVERNOR OF ARKANSAS JAMES "JIM" GUY TUCKER FOR HIS  
14 SERVICE TO THE NATION AND TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

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17 **Subtitle**

18 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF FORMER ARKANSAS  
19 ATTORNEY GENERAL, UNITED STATES  
20 CONGRESSMAN, AND FORTY-THIRD GOVERNOR OF  
21 ARKANSAS JAMES "JIM" GUY TUCKER FOR HIS  
22 SERVICE TO THE NATION AND TO THE STATE  
23 OF ARKANSAS.

24  
25 WHEREAS, former Arkansas Attorney General, United States Congressman,  
26 and forty-third Governor of Arkansas James "Jim" Guy Tucker, formerly of  
27 Little Rock, passed away Thursday, February 13, 2025, at the age of eighty-  
28 one (81); and

29  
30 WHEREAS, former Governor Tucker was born June 13, 1943, in Oklahoma  
31 City, Oklahoma, as one (1) of three (3) children, and in 1945 the family  
32 moved back to Arkansas where his parents had been born; and

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34 WHEREAS, former Governor Tucker was raised in a modest brick home on  
35 Stonewall Road in Little Rock in a neighborhood today known as the Heights,  
36 and where Tucker once recalled having seen horses and buggies tethered to a



1 "hitchin' rail" in front of the local hardware store; and

2  
3 WHEREAS, former Governor Tucker's paternal grandfather was the city  
4 marshal in El Dorado, his maternal grandfather was the White County Judge,  
5 and his father was a World War I veteran and an Arkansas state auditor and  
6 later manager of the state's Social Security system, and his mother was a  
7 college graduate who owned Merle Norman Cosmetics studios in central Arkansas  
8 in order to pay for her son's college education; and

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10 WHEREAS, other formative experiences for former Governor Tucker  
11 included becoming an Eagle Scout, learning to play guitar, being a pole  
12 vaulter and a football player, and becoming involved in student affairs; and

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14 WHEREAS, former Governor Tucker was awoken from sleep on the night of  
15 March 31, 1960, when a B-47 bomber exploded in the air over Little Rock,  
16 killing three (3) crew members in addition to two (2) fatalities on the  
17 ground as the wreckage landed in the Hillcrest neighborhood, and this made a  
18 deep impression on the teenaged Tucker; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, former Governor Tucker attended Harvard University in Boston,  
21 Massachusetts, beginning in the autumn of 1961, a time during which Tucker  
22 was also diagnosed with the ulcerative colitis that would, years later, lead  
23 to colon cancer and the need for a liver transplant; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, during the summer of 1963, former Governor Tucker worked for  
26 United States Senator John McClellan in Washington, D.C., and that summer  
27 Tucker met United States Attorney General Robert Kennedy and watched the  
28 Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., give his famous "I Have a Dream" speech on  
29 the steps of the Lincoln Memorial; and

30  
31 WHEREAS, former Governor Tucker graduated in the spring of 1964 from  
32 Harvard University with a bachelor's degree in government, then immediately  
33 joined the United States Marines, but he was discharged within three (3)  
34 months because of his increasingly serious health issues, so Tucker turned  
35 his focus to helping former Governor Winthrop "Win" Rockefeller during  
36 Rockefeller's campaign for governor; and

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WHEREAS, in 1965 and 1967, former Governor Tucker went to Vietnam to cover the war as a journalist, corresponding with ABC News and several Arkansas newspapers, including the Arkansas Democrat; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, former Governor Tucker graduated from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville School of Law, having earned his Juris Doctorate while taking some time to teach at American University in Beirut, and he then went to work for the Rose Law Firm in Little Rock; and

WHEREAS, in March 1970, former Governor Tucker went undercover for thirty-six (36) hours as a prisoner at the Cummins Unit at the request of the Chair of the Board of Corrections and successfully uncovered elements of the corruption that was rumored to exist there at that time; and

WHEREAS, later in 1970, former Governor Tucker won the office of prosecuting attorney for Pulaski and Perry counties; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, former Governor Tucker was elected to the office of Attorney General of Arkansas, where he formed a commission to create Arkansas's criminal law; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, former Governor Tucker met teacher Betty Allen Alworth, married her in 1975, and treated her two (2) children "as his own children right from the get-go" according to his stepson, and he had two (2) more children with Alworth; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, former Governor Tucker was elected to the United States Congress and was appointed to the House Ways and Means Committee, the Social Security Subcommittee, and a special task force on welfare reform; and

WHEREAS, former Governor Tucker returned to private practice in 1979 before running for Governor of Arkansas in 1982, losing to his personal friend and political rival William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, former Governor Tucker was elected Lieutenant

1 Governor, and then became acting Governor in 1991 as then-Governor William  
2 Jefferson "Bill" Clinton began his ultimately successful campaign to become  
3 President of the United States; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, while former Governor Tucker was in office as Governor of the  
6 State of Arkansas, he worked diligently to improve Arkansas's prison system,  
7 signed into law the Arkansas Civil Rights Act of 1993, and sought to increase  
8 money for education without raising taxes; and  
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10 WHEREAS, former Governor Tucker was reelected as Governor in 1994, and  
11 Tucker eventually stepped down as Governor; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, former Governor Michael Dale "Mike" Huckabee became Governor  
14 after former Governor Tucker stepped down, and Huckabee said of Tucker, "I  
15 will remember that we worked together when it was best for the state. . . I  
16 had great respect for his overcoming many health challenges so he could  
17 continue to serve the state he truly loved"; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, former President of the United States William Jefferson "Bill"  
20 Clinton said of former Governor Tucker, "Jim Guy was a good and honorable man  
21 and a good citizen who bore life's setbacks, including his health challenges,  
22 with dignity and determination"; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders said of former Governor  
25 Tucker, "Jim Guy was part of a generation of larger-than-life Arkansans who  
26 dominated Arkansas's political life when I was growing up and had an  
27 immeasurable impact on our state"; and  
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29 WHEREAS, Representative Tracy Steele worked on former Governor Tucker's  
30 staff, and Representative Steele described former Governor Tucker as "a good  
31 man to work for"; and  
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33 WHEREAS, former Governor Tucker was known for his charisma and  
34 intelligence, both of which enabled him to work well with both parties during  
35 his many years of service as a political leader; and  
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1           WHEREAS, while former Governor Tucker was committed to improving the  
2 lives of all Arkansans, he was also well-known for being a devoted father,  
3 grandfather, mentor, and friend; and  
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5           WHEREAS, former Governor Tucker is survived by his wife, Betty Allen  
6 Tucker, stepson Lance Alworth, Jr., stepdaughter Kelly Driscoll, and  
7 daughters Anna Ashton and Sarah Tucker,  
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9 NOW THEREFORE,

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL  
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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13           THAT the House of Representatives remember former Arkansas Attorney  
14 General, United States Congressman, and forty-third Governor of Arkansas  
15 James "Jim" Guy Tucker for his service to the nation and to the State of  
16 Arkansas.  
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be  
19 presented to the family of former Governor James "Jim" Guy Tucker by the  
20 Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.  
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