

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

HMR 1008

4
5 By: Representative Duffield
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8 HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

9 TO REMEMBER BOXER TOMMY MORRISON OF GRAVETTE FOR HIS
10 LEGENDARY BOXING SKILLS THAT BROUGHT RENOWN TO HIM
11 AND TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.
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14 Subtitle

15 TO REMEMBER BOXER TOMMY MORRISON OF
16 GRAVETTE FOR HIS LEGENDARY BOXING SKILLS
17 THAT BROUGHT RENOWN TO HIM AND TO THE
18 STATE OF ARKANSAS.
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20 WHEREAS, Tommy "The Duke" Morrison, formerly of Omaha, Nebraska, passed
21 away on September 1, 2013, at the age of forty-four (44); and
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23 WHEREAS, Tommy "The Duke" Morrison was born in Gravette, Arkansas, on
24 January 2, 1969, to a mother, Diana, of Native American ancestry and a
25 father, Tim, of Scottish ancestry; and
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27 WHEREAS, Tommy "The Duke" Morrison spent his teenage years in Oklahoma,
28 and his father encouraged him to take up boxing during the 1970s, a sport in
29 which Morrison found immediate success; and
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31 WHEREAS, Tommy "The Duke" Morrison acquired his nickname, "The Duke",
32 based on a claim that he was a distant relative of famed actor Marion "John
33 Wayne" Morrison, who was also nicknamed "The Duke"; and
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35 WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, Tommy "The Duke" Morrison
36 received a football scholarship to Emporia State University, and in the same



1 year won the Regional Heavy Weight Title, Kansas City Golden Gloves, and
2 advanced to the National Golden Gloves in Omaha, Nebraska, where he won the
3 majority of his fights; and
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5 WHEREAS, also in that same year, Tommy "The Duke" Morrison took part in
6 the Western Olympic trials, qualified for the nationals, and garnered the
7 tournament's Outstanding Fighter award; and
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9 WHEREAS, Tommy "The Duke" Morrison had accumulated numerous wins as a
10 boxer when he was spotted in 1989 by actor Sylvester Stallone, who, after
11 watching one of Morrison's bouts, arranged a script reading and cast Morrison
12 in the film "Rocky V" as Tommy "The Machine" Gunn, a young and talented
13 protege of retired main character Rocky Balboa; and
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15 WHEREAS, among his many victories, Tommy "The Duke" Morrison became the
16 new World Boxing Organization heavyweight champion in 1993 by defeating
17 heavyweight boxing legend George Foreman; and
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19 WHEREAS, Tommy "The Duke" Morrison's professional boxing record
20 encompassed fifty-two (52) fights, of which he won forty-eight and lost three
21 (48-3), and his amateur boxing record encompassed two hundred twenty-two
22 fights, of which he won two hundred two and lost twenty (202-20); and
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24 WHEREAS, the World Boxing Organization said Tommy "The Duke" Morrison
25 would be remembered best for his dangerous punching power and especially his
26 left hook, and two-time heavyweight champion Pinklon Thomas ranked Morrison
27 ahead of Mike Tyson as the hardest puncher he had ever faced,
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29 NOW THEREFORE,

30 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL
31 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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33 THAT the House of Representatives remember boxer Tommy Morrison of
34 Gravette for his legendary boxing skills that brought renown to him and to
35 the State of Arkansas.
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be
2 presented to Tommy "The Duke" Morrison's son, Kenzie Morrison, by the Chief
3 Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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