

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

SMR 2

4  
5 By: Senators C. Tucker, J. Boyd, J. Bryant, D. Wallace, Caldwell, D. Sullivan, A. Clark, G. Stubblefield,  
6 Crowell, Stone, B. Davis, J. Scott, Dees, Rice, J. Dismang, J. Petty, J. Dotson, C. Penzo, J. English, J.  
7 Payton, Flippo, R. Murdock, S. Flowers, M. McKee, Gilmore, F. Love, K. Hammer, G. Leding, Hester,  
8 B. King, Hickey, M. Johnson, Hill, B. Johnson, Irvin

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11 **SENATE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

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

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17  
18 **Subtitle**

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

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

30  
31 WHEREAS, former Governor Tucker was born June 13, 1943, in Oklahoma  
32 City, Oklahoma, as one (1) of three (3) children, and in 1945 the family  
33 moved back to their native Arkansas; and

34  
35 WHEREAS, former Governor Tucker was raised in a modest brick home on  
36 Stonewall Road in Little Rock in a neighborhood today known as the Heights,



1 and where Tucker once recalled having seen horses and buggies tethered to a  
2 "hitchin' rail" in front of the local hardware store; and

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

10  
11 WHEREAS, other formative experiences for former Governor Tucker  
12 included becoming an Eagle Scout at the early age of twelve (12), learning to  
13 play guitar, being a pole vaulter and a football player, becoming involved in  
14 student affairs, and working long hours during summers in high school paving  
15 Little Rock roads; and

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

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

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

33  
34 WHEREAS, while a student at Harvard, former Governor Tucker observed  
35 that the United States military was becoming more deeply involved in Vietnam,  
36 and he therefore served as a member of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps,

1 accelerated his studies, graduated from Harvard a year ahead of schedule in  
2 1964 with a degree in government, and proceeded straight to boot camp in  
3 hopes of serving overseas as a Marine; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, former Governor Tucker regretted that he was discharged within  
6 three (3) months of enlisting because of his increasingly serious health  
7 issues, and he promptly returned home to Arkansas to work for former Governor  
8 Winthrop "Win" Rockefeller in Rockefeller's campaign for Governor of  
9 Arkansas; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, not letting his health prevent him from serving his country in  
12 Vietnam, former Governor Tucker made his way by ship from San Francisco to  
13 Japan, South Korea, and Thailand, finally traveling over land into Vietnam,  
14 where he found work with various news outlets as a war correspondent; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, often armed and traveling with American platoons, former  
17 Governor Tucker covered the combat at close range, where he met,  
18 photographed, and interviewed many service members from Arkansas, detailing  
19 their stories of service, survival, and sacrifice in a book called "Arkansas  
20 Men at War"; and  
21

22 WHEREAS, during his time in Vietnam, former Governor Tucker  
23 corresponded with ABC News and several Arkansas newspapers, including the  
24 Arkansas Democrat; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, in 1968, former Governor Tucker graduated from the University  
27 of Arkansas at Fayetteville School of Law, having earned his Juris Doctorate  
28 while taking some time to teach at American University in Beirut, and he then  
29 went to work for the Rose Law Firm in Little Rock; and  
30

31 WHEREAS, in March 1970, former Governor Tucker went undercover for  
32 thirty-six (36) hours as a prisoner at the Cummins Unit at the request of the  
33 Chair of the Board of Corrections and successfully uncovered elements of the  
34 corruption that was rumored to exist there at that time; and  
35

36 WHEREAS, later in 1970, former Governor Tucker won the office of

1 prosecuting attorney for Pulaski and Perry counties; and

2  
3 WHEREAS, in only two (2) years as prosecuting attorney, former Governor  
4 Tucker oversaw the prosecution of more than one thousand (1,000) backlogged  
5 felony cases inherited from previous administrations, and, in an act ahead of  
6 his time, conducted scientific testing to determine the sources polluting the  
7 Arkansas River before prosecuting the polluters; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, in 1972, former Governor Tucker was elected to the Office of  
10 Attorney General of Arkansas at age twenty-nine (29), where he spearheaded a  
11 broad revision of Arkansas's criminal laws, enacting the criminal code in a  
12 statutory scheme for the first time in Arkansas's history; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, in 1972, former Governor Tucker met teacher Betty Allen  
15 Alworth, knew within weeks that he wanted to marry her, married her in 1975,  
16 and treated her two (2) children "as his own children right from the get-go"  
17 according to his stepson, and he had two (2) more children with Betty; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, in 1976, former Governor Tucker was elected to the United  
20 States Congress and was appointed to the House Ways and Means Committee, the  
21 Social Security Subcommittee, and a special task force on welfare reform and  
22 was a shining star of his Congressional class; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, former Governor Tucker returned to private practice in 1979  
25 before running for Governor of Arkansas in 1982, losing to his personal  
26 friend and political rival William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, in 1990, former Governor Tucker was elected Lieutenant  
29 Governor, where he shepherded Arkansas through an important time of  
30 transition, serving as acting Governor while then-Governor William Jefferson  
31 "Bill" Clinton ran his campaign to become President of the United States, and  
32 ultimately assuming the Office of Governor in December 1992 after former  
33 President Clinton had been elected to the Office of President of the United  
34 States; and

35  
36 WHEREAS, former Governor Tucker was reelected as Governor in 1994 with

1 nearly sixty percent (60%) of the vote, carrying seventy-three (73) of  
2 Arkansas's seventy-five (75) counties; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, while former Governor Tucker was in office as Governor of the  
5 State of Arkansas, he worked diligently to improve Arkansas's prison system,  
6 signed into law the Arkansas Civil Rights Act of 1993, and sought to increase  
7 money for education without raising taxes; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, after serving as Governor of Arkansas, former Governor Tucker  
10 excelled in international business, particularly in Asia, where he also  
11 established a Hong Kong fundraising arm for Heifer International, developed  
12 sustainable agricultural projects that lifted rural communities out of  
13 poverty, and even found time to sing and play guitar for Arkansas expats  
14 living in or visiting Hong Kong; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, former Governor Tucker pursued a host of exciting activities  
17 in his personal time, piloting planes, rafting rivers, sailing, diving,  
18 hunting, fishing, and camping, including highlights of once waking up in  
19 Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming to find himself gazing into the nostril  
20 of a curious moose, scuba diving off of the Great Barrier Reef in Australia,  
21 and visiting Komodo Island in Indonesia for an up-close look at the eponymous  
22 dragons; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, in his later years, former Governor Tucker enjoyed supporting  
25 younger Arkansans drawn to politics and public service, serving as a  
26 generous, selfless, and faithful mentor to many whom he believed would carry  
27 on his life's mission of serving the state he so loved; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, former Governor Michael Dale "Mike" Huckabee said of former  
30 Governor Tucker, "I will remember that we worked together when it was best  
31 for the state. . . I had great respect for his overcoming many health  
32 challenges so he could continue to serve the state he truly loved"; and

33  
34 WHEREAS, former President of the United States William Jefferson "Bill"  
35 Clinton said of former Governor Tucker, "Jim Guy was a good and honorable man  
36 and a good citizen who bore life's setbacks, including his health challenges,

1 with dignity and determination"; and

2  
3 WHEREAS, Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders said of former Governor  
4 Tucker, "Jim Guy was part of a generation of larger-than-life Arkansans who  
5 dominated Arkansas's political life when I was growing up and had an  
6 immeasurable impact on our state"; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, former Governor Tucker was known for his charisma and  
9 intelligence, both of which enabled him to work well with both parties during  
10 his many years of service as a political leader; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, while former Governor Tucker was committed to improving the  
13 lives of all Arkansans, he was also well-known for being a devoted father,  
14 grandfather, mentor, and friend; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, former Governor Tucker is survived by his wife, Betty Allen  
17 Tucker, stepson Lance Alworth, Jr., stepdaughter Kelly Driscoll, and  
18 daughters Anna Ashton and Sarah Tucker,

19  
20 NOW THEREFORE,

21 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
22 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

23  
24 THAT the Senate remember former Arkansas Attorney General, United  
25 States Congressman, and forty-third Governor of Arkansas James "Jim" Guy  
26 Tucker for his service to the nation and to the State of Arkansas.

27  
28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be  
29 presented to the family of former Governor James "Jim" Guy Tucker by the  
30 Secretary of the Senate.

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