

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-third Legislature
First Regular Session
1997

HCR 2031

Introduced by

Representatives Aldridge, Wong, McGibbon, Gardner, Gerard, Senator Wettaw:
Representatives Carruthers, Cooley, Daniels, Eberhart, Gleason, Griffin, Hart,
Hershberger, Kyle, Leff, Lynch, Marsh, McGrath, Nichols, Preble, Schottel,
Smith, Steffey, Voss, Senator Cirillo

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE BURTON S. BARR.

1 The People of Arizona have lost an extraordinary leader. The Honorable
2 Burton S. Barr, war hero, devoted family man, public policy architect and
3 legislative statesman, passed away at the age of seventy-nine on Monday,
4 January 13, 1997.

5 Burton Barr represented north central Phoenix in the Arizona House of
6 Representatives for twenty-two years from 1964 to 1986. He was the
7 Republican majority leader for twenty of those years. It is said that
8 Mr. Barr was involved in some way in every major piece of legislation during
9 his distinguished tenure. Vehicle inspection, health care for indigents,
10 school aid, the tax code, prison reform, child care, groundwater management
11 and freeway funding are a few of his many accomplishments. According to
12 Burton Barr: "We operated on a thesis that we wanted to do things."

13 Called "Mr. Magic" by his colleagues, Representative Barr is best known
14 as a great compromiser. It did not seem to matter whether the Governor or
15 the Senate was Democrat or Republican, Barr worked effectively with either
16 party and placed the good of the State above politics. He brought wit and
17 civility to any honest disagreement and crafted measures that were acceptable
18 to all the parties involved.

19 During World War II, Barr served gallantly in North Africa, Italy,
20 France and Germany, earning two Silver Stars and two Bronze Stars. He
21 reached the rank of lieutenant colonel in 1946 and retired from the Army
22 Reserve as a full colonel in 1964.

23 That same year Burton Barr began his political career, winning a tough
24 race in legislative district 18 by walking the neighborhoods in a successful
25 door-to-door campaign. He took on the Democratic majority in the House and

1 outmaneuvered them. In 1966, after Republicans gained majority status, one
2 political era ended and the Barr era began.

3 Despite a surprising loss in his bid to be Governor in 1986, Mr. Barr
4 continued to be an active public advocate, playing key roles in obtaining
5 major sports franchises for Arizona and acting as arbiter to settle the
6 difficult relations between the Governor's office and the Indian Tribes
7 regarding Indian gaming.

8 This highly energetic and witty lawmaker is praised by political
9 figures from both parties. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, a Democratic
10 Governor during Barr's reign in the House, stated that Representative Burton
11 Barr's passing "is truly a passing of an era".

12 Burton Barr's legacy lies in his uncompromising dedication to the best
13 principle of democracy -- the good of the people. He will be greatly missed
14 by his family, his many friends and by the citizens of the State of Arizona.
15 Therefore

16 Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, the

17 Senate concurring:

18 That the Members of the Legislature regret the passing of the Honorable
19 Burton S. Barr and extend their most sincere sympathies and condolences to
20 his wife, Louise, his children, Stephanie, Michael and Susan and his other
21 surviving relatives.