

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4
5 By: Representative Scott

HR 1008

6
7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 HONORING THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK SIX.
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11 **Subtitle**

12 HONORING THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK SIX.
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15 WHEREAS, in 1955, the North Little Rock School Board voted to begin
16 integrating classes at the twelfth-grade level, but after the September 2,
17 1957 crisis at Central High School in Little Rock, the directors of the
18 North Little Rock School Board put a halt to the integration plan; and
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20 WHEREAS, on September 9, 1957, 6 seniors from the all-black Scipio
21 Jones High School attempted to enroll anyway at North Little Rock High for
22 the 1957–58 school year, including Richard Lindsey, Gerald Persons, Harold
23 Smith, Eugene Hall, Frank Henderson, and William Henderson; were
24 accompanied by 4 African-American ministers, Fred D. Gipson, Daniel J.
25 Webster, John H. Gipson, and Walter B. Banks; and became known as the North
26 Little Rock Six; and
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28 WHEREAS, the 6 students were pushed and shoved away from the front
29 steps by other students as adults watched from across the street; Principal
30 George Miller and Superintendent F. Bruce Wright came out of the school and
31 asked the 6 students to come inside to talk, but the entrance was blocked
32 by students who refused to move even after Superintendent Wright threatened
33 to bar them from admittance to the school for the year; and ultimately, the
34 6 black students were instructed by Superintendent Wright to meet him at
35 the school administration building for a conference; and
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1 WHEREAS, while local police had been posted at the school since the
2 early morning hours and many were equipped with nightsticks to avert
3 violence, the officers were not instructed to prevent any African-American
4 students from entering the school; by noon on September 9, 1957, the crowd
5 of segregationists had grown to around 200; and Superintendent Wright later
6 told the Associated Press that he advised the 6 students to enroll at
7 Scipio A. Jones High School, stating, "I don't think integration will work
8 at this time, judging from the temperament of the crowd"; and

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10 WHEREAS, the 6 students did not again attempt to integrate the school;
11 and it was not until September 3, 1964, that the North Little Rock School
12 District desegregated when 8 African-American students were admitted at the
13 all-white Clendenin and Riverside elementary schools; and

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15 WHEREAS, these 6 students and their mentors should always be remembered
16 as beacons of strength in the face of overwhelming odds, dignity in the face
17 of adversity, courage in the face of hostility, and perseverance in the
18 struggle for the betterment of their fellow man and the ultimate success of
19 the civil rights movement,

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21 NOW THEREFORE,

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL
23 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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25 THAT the House of Representatives honor the courage and the dignity of
26 the North Little Rock Six and their families.