

1 State of Arkansas
2 88th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2011

SR 13

4
5 By: Senator L. Chesterfield

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7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

8 AN ACT TO COMMEMORATE DAISY GATSON BATES ON MONDAY,
9 FEBRUARY 21, 2011.

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12 **Subtitle**

13 TO COMMEMORATE DAISY GATSON BATES ON
14 MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2011.

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16 WHEREAS, renowned human and civil rights activist, Daisy Lee Gatson
17 Bates was born in Huttig, Arkansas on November 11, 1914; and

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19 WHEREAS, in 1941, Ms. Bates, along with her husband, L. C. Bates,
20 established the most influential African-American newspaper in the civil
21 rights movement in Arkansas, the "Arkansas State Press"; and

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23 WHEREAS, in 1952, Ms. Bates was elected the first woman president of
24 the Arkansas Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of
25 Colored People; and

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27 WHEREAS, in 1957, Ms. Bates became the advisor to the famous "Little
28 Rock Nine", the first group of African-American students to integrate
29 Arkansas' public schools, to implement the Little Rock School Board's
30 desegregation plan at Central High School; and

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32 WHEREAS, in 1962, Ms. Bates published her memoirs of the Central High
33 School crisis entitled, "The Long Shadow of Little Rock", containing an
34 introduction by Eleanor Roosevelt; and

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36 WHEREAS, Ms. Bates received many awards and honors both locally and



1 nationally. In May of 1984, she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws
2 degree by the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville; and

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4 WHEREAS, 14th Street in Little Rock, Arkansas has been renamed Daisy L.
5 Gatson Bates Drive in honor of Ms. Bates' achievements; and

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7 WHEREAS, on November 4, 1999, Ms. Bates died and was buried at the
8 Haven of Rest Cemetery in Little Rock, Arkansas; and

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10 WHEREAS, in 2001, the General Assembly designated the third Monday in
11 February as Daisy Gatson Bates Day; and

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13 WHEREAS, Ms. Daisy Lee Gatson Bates should continue to be honored by
14 the State of Arkansas for her historic renown as a civil rights leader and
15 for her distinguished civic services,

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17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
18 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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20 THAT the Senate of the Eighty-Eighth General Assembly of the State of
21 Arkansas honors the memory of the late Ms. Daisy Lee Gatson Bates and
22 celebrates her life and achievements this 21st day of February, 2011, Daisy
23 Gatson Bates Day.