

1 State of Arkansas
2 84th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2003
4

As Engrossed: H3/25/03

HCR 1029

5 By: Representative King
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8 HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

9 RECOGNIZING AND HONORING MATTYE MAYE *WHYTE*
10 WOODRIDGE AS THE FOUNDER OF ARKANSAS TEACHERS'
11 DAY; AND TO ENCOURAGE CONGRESS TO ESTABLISH THIS
12 DAY AS NATIONAL TEACHERS' DAY.
13

14 Subtitle

15 RECOGNIZING AND HONORING MATTYE MAYE
16 *WHYTE* WOODRIDGE AS THE FOUNDER OF
17 ARKANSAS TEACHERS' DAY; AND TO ENCOURAGE
18 CONGRESS TO ESTABLISH THIS DAY AS
19 NATIONAL TEACHERS' DAY.
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21 WHEREAS, Mattye Maye *Whyte* Woodridge of Helena spent her life as an
22 educator; and
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24 WHEREAS, in 1944, while teaching at Eliza Miller High School, Ms.
25 Woodridge won the Outstanding Teacher of the Year award four (4) times; and
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27 WHEREAS, from the envy of the other teachers about the award, Ms.
28 Woodridge realized the need for an annual teachers' day "for all teachers to
29 be honored"; and
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31 WHEREAS, from 1944 to 1953, Ms. Woodridge wrote to the nation's
32 governors, political leaders, and education leaders to gather support for a
33 National Teachers' Day; and
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35 WHEREAS, Ms. Woodridge credits Eleanor Roosevelt, with whom she had
36 corresponded, as being the prime mover in persuading the Eighty-First



1 Congress to pass a Joint Resolution in 1953 designating the first Tuesday in
2 March as National Teachers' Day; and

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4 WHEREAS, in 1980, Ms. Woodridge witnessed the signing into law, by then
5 Governor Bill Clinton, the first Tuesday in March as Arkansas Teachers' Day;
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8 WHEREAS, this day continued to be observed until 1985 when the National
9 Education Association and the National PTA established Teacher Appreciation
10 Week as the first full week in May, and later voted to make the Tuesday of
11 that week National Teacher Day; and

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13 WHEREAS, in 1985, Ms. Woodridge was honored at the National Education
14 Association's Human and Civil Rights Banquet in Washington, D.C., with a
15 special award for her "tireless efforts to promote a positive image of the
16 teaching profession through national, state, and local teacher's day
17 celebration",

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19 NOW THEREFORE,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-FOURTH GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

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23 That the Arkansas House of Representatives and Arkansas Senate hereby
24 honor and recognize Ms. Mattye Maye Whyte Woodridge's diligence in working
25 for the creation of a national day to celebrate teachers, the creation of a
26 time for honoring teachers, and the recognition of the lasting contribution
27 that teachers make to our lives.

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29 /s/ King
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