

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

*As Engrossed: H3/25/03 S4/3/03*

HCR 1029

5 By: Representative King  
6 *By: Senator Wilkins*  
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9 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

10 RECOGNIZING AND HONORING MATTYE MAYE *WHYTE*  
11 WOODRIDGE AS THE FOUNDER OF ARKANSAS TEACHERS'  
12 *DAY AND NATIONAL TEACHER DAY.*  
13

14 **Subtitle**

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



1 *March as National Teachers' Day; and*

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3 *WHEREAS, in 1980, Ms. Woodridge witnessed the signing into law, by then*  
4 *Governor Bill Clinton, the first Tuesday in March as Arkansas Teachers' Day;*  
5 *and*

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7 *WHEREAS, this day continued to be observed until 1985 when the National*  
8 *Education Association and the National PTA established Teacher Appreciation*  
9 *Week as the first full week in May, and later voted to make the Tuesday of*  
10 *that week National Teacher Day; and*

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

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18 **NOW THEREFORE,**

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

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

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28 */s/ King*

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