

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025

SCR 4

4
5 By: Senators J. Scott, F. Love, R. Murdock, C. Tucker, G. Leding
6 By: Representatives J. Richardson, F. Allen, K. Ferguson, T. Shephard, Ennett, McGruder, Barnett,
7 Barnes, Steele, Springer, McCullough, A. Collins, D. Garner, Gonzales Worthen

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9 **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

10 TO RECOGNIZE FORMER REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATOR JOYCE
11 ELLIOTT DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH FOR HER SERVICE TO
12 THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

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15 **Subtitle**

16 TO RECOGNIZE FORMER REPRESENTATIVE AND
17 SENATOR JOYCE ELLIOTT DURING BLACK
18 HISTORY MONTH FOR HER SERVICE TO THE
19 STATE OF ARKANSAS.

20
21 WHEREAS, Joyce Elliott was born on March 20, 1951, in rural Willisville
22 as one of six (6) children raised by their mother and grandparents; and

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24 WHEREAS, Joyce Elliott attended all-Black Oak Grove Rosenwald School
25 where she was a top student, and then she took advantage of the opportunity
26 to attend the recently desegregated Willisville High School, beginning
27 attendance there in 1966 when she was in grade ten (10); and

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29 WHEREAS, Black students were given the option at the end of the 1966-67
30 school year to return to segregated schools, but Joyce Elliott refused and
31 became the second Black person to graduate from Willisville High School
32 following her older sister, who was the first; and

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34 WHEREAS, Joyce Elliott then enrolled at what is now Southern Arkansas
35 University in Magnolia and graduated in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in
36 English and Speech before earning her master's degree in English from



1 Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia in 1981; and

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3 WHEREAS, following receipt of her master's degree, Joyce Elliott became
4 a teacher and eventually taught high school in El Dorado and later at Little
5 Rock's Joe T. Robinson High School, and she also served two (2) terms as
6 president of the Pulaski County chapter of the National Education
7 Association; and

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9 WHEREAS, in 2000, Joyce Elliott was elected to the office of State
10 Representative for District 56 after campaigning on the issues of childcare,
11 education, and health care, winning with eighty-three percent (83%) of the
12 vote, and continued her work as a teacher until 2003 while holding office as
13 a member of the House of Representatives, of which she remained a member
14 until 2006; and

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16 WHEREAS, in 2008, Joyce Elliott was elected to the Senate and
17 represented District 33 and then District 31 until January 2023, with
18 education dominating her agenda throughout her time as a senator; and

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20 WHEREAS, Joyce Elliott worked closely with then-Senator Shane Broadway
21 to produce education programs effecting equal and adequate funding in the
22 wake of the 2002 holding in Lake View School District No. 25 v. Huckabee, and
23 she also at times worked closely with then-Governor Michael Dale "Mike"
24 Huckabee on education-related issues; and

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26 WHEREAS, in 2022, Joyce Elliott founded Get Loud Arkansas, a nonprofit
27 focused on civic engagement, particularly in the realm of voting; and

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29 WHEREAS, Joyce Elliott has received numerous honors and awards,
30 including the Founder's Award from the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame, the
31 Advocacy Award from the Arkansas Public Service Association, the Legislative
32 Friend of Children Award from Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families,
33 the Pillar Award for Education from the Arkansas chapter of 100 Black Men,
34 and the Distinguished Legislator Award from the Arkansas Municipal League,

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36 NOW THEREFORE,

1 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
2 STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

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4 THAT the Senate and the House of Representatives recognize former
5 Representative and Senator Joyce Elliott during Black History Month for her
6 service to the State of Arkansas.

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be
9 presented to Joyce Elliott by the Secretary of the Senate.

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