

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023

HR 1057

4
5
6
7

By: Representatives V. Flowers, F. Allen, Ennett, K. Ferguson, Nicks, J. Richardson, Scott, T. Shephard,
Springer

8
9
10

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE IRMA HUNTER BROWN FOR HER SERVICE TO THE
STATE OF ARKANSAS.

11
12
13

Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE IRMA HUNTER BROWN FOR HER
SERVICE TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

14
15
16

WHEREAS, Irma Lee Hunter Brown was born on January 5, 1939, in Tampa,
Florida, to Dovie Estoria White Hunter and Joseph Hartwell Hunter; and

17
18
19

WHEREAS, Irma Hunter Brown grew up in Forsyth, Georgia and moved to
North Little Rock, Arkansas, to attend Shorter College; and

20
21
22

WHEREAS, Irma Hunter Brown received her associate's degree in
1958, and then transferred to Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical, & Normal
College (now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff), where she was a
member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and graduated magna cum laude in 1960
with a double major in history and government and a minor in education; and

23
24
25

WHEREAS, Irma Hunter Brown served in the Arkansas House of
Representatives from 1981 to 1998 and in the Arkansas Senate from
2003 to 2008; and

26
27
28

WHEREAS, Irma Hunter Brown was the first African American woman elected
to the Arkansas House and then became the first African American woman
elected to the Arkansas Senate; and

29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36



1 WHEREAS, Irma Hunter Brown was a founder of the Arkansas Legislative
2 Black Caucus and served as its first chair; and

3
4 WHEREAS, Irma Hunter Brown was active in the National Conference of
5 State Legislators (NCSL) and the National Black Caucus of State Legislators
6 (NBCSL), serving on the executive committees of both; and

7
8 WHEREAS, Irma Hunter Brown served as an ambassador from NCSL to Japan
9 and did a number of study tours of Germany, She represented the American
10 Association of University Women at the first Nairobi conference, was a member
11 of Rotary International, served on the board of directors of the Little Rock
12 YWCA, was president of the Little Rock Parent Teachers Association Council,
13 served on the board of the Museum of Discovery, served on the founding board
14 of the Little Rock Central High National Historical Site, and was vice chair
15 of Arkansas Educational Television Network Foundation; and

16
17 WHEREAS, Irma Hunter Brown was appointed president of Shorter College;
18 and

19
20 WHEREAS, while serving in the Arkansas Senate, Irma Hunter Brown
21 chaired the City, County, and Local Affairs Committee; and

22
23 WHEREAS Irma Hunter Brown stated she was proud to serve at a time when
24 the grocery tax was cut in half and was also proud to be a part of the
25 General Assembly's work to pass legislation to encourage and support early
26 childhood education; and

27
28 WHEREAS, Irma Hunter Brown received the ACLU Humanitarian of the Year
29 award in 2007, was recognized for her work in the passage of the Clean Air
30 Act that ended smoking in restaurants, was a recipient of the Distinguished
31 Citizen Award from Philander Smith College, and was appointed by the National
32 Conference of State Legislators to the American Legacy Foundation; and

33
34 WHEREAS, After her twenty-four years of legislative service as an
35 advocate for human rights, Irma Hunter Brown continued to serve the community
36 and became a trustee of the Union African Methodist Episcopal Church and

1 president of the Friends of Haven of Rest Cemetery, Inc., a nonprofit for
2 preservation of the Black historic cemetery in Little Rock; and

3
4 WHEREAS, In 2015, Irma Hunter Brown was recognized by a plaque on the
5 Arkansas Civil Rights Heritage Trail project of the University of Arkansas at
6 Little Rock Institute on Race and Ethnicity and she was inducted into the
7 Arkansas Black Hall of Fame in 2019,

8
9 NOW THEREFORE,

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FOURTH GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

12
13 THAT the House of Representatives recognize the Irma Hunter Brown for
14 her dedicated service to the State of Arkansas.

15
16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution shall be
17 provided to Irma Hunter Brown by the Chief Clerk of the House of
18 Representatives.