

1 **State of Arkansas**
2 **78th General Assembly**
3 **Regular Session, 1991**
4 **By: Senator C. Bell**

S.C.R.

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7 **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

8 COMMEMORATING THE 450TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE de SOTO
9 EXPEDITION THROUGH ARKANSAS.

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11 WHEREAS, Hernando de Soto, the Spanish conquistador and explorer, and an
12 entourage of men were the first Europeans to visit what is now Arkansas; and

13 WHEREAS, the de Soto expedition crossed the Mississippi River into
14 Arkansas on Thursday, June 19, 1541; and

15 WHEREAS, the provincial capital then known as Casqui, where one of the
16 first contacts with native Arkansans occurred, now to be forever preserved as
17 Parkin Mound Archeological State Park in the City of Parkin, is considered to
18 be internationally significant as the site where the first Christian Cross was
19 raised west of the Mississippi River; and

20 WHEREAS, after leaving Casqui, de Soto and his party traveled throughout
21 the State searching for gold and riches, until his death and burial in the
22 Mississippi River on May 21, 1542; and

23 WHEREAS, the expeditions two winter encampment sites presently remain
24 undiscovered and may someday, with proper excavation and research, provide
25 enlightenment about this significant event in the state and world history; and

26 WHEREAS, the impact of this expedition, 450 years ago, had an
27 everlasting effect on the land, the natives, and the development of
28 Southeastern North America;

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30 NOW THEREFORE,

31 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
32 STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

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34 That the Arkansas General Assembly recognizes the significance of this
35 event to history and hereby commemorates 1991 as the 450th Anniversary of de

1 Soto's expedition into Arkansas.

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