

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017

HR 1033

4
5 By: Representative Cavanaugh

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7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 HONORING AND REMEMBERING THE INTEGRATION OF HOXIE
9 PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN 1955.

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12 **Subtitle**

13 HONORING AND REMEMBERING THE INTEGRATION
14 OF HOXIE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN 1955.

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17 WHEREAS, as featured in the film "Hoxie: The First Stand", the first
18 court battle to implement the Brown vs. Board of Education school
19 desegregation decision was fought in the small rural town of Hoxie, Arkansas;
20 and Hoxie sparked the first federal support of integration after the decision
21 and the first court order overturning state segregation laws; and

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23 WHEREAS, in the summer of 1955, the school board of Hoxie voluntarily
24 desegregated its schools; the newly formed White Citizens' Council saw this
25 as a test for southern resistance to the United States Supreme Court's 1954
26 desegregation decision in Brown v. the Board of Education and soon descended
27 on the town with efforts to force the school board to rescind its order;
28 however, the superintendent and school board held their ground; and

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30 WHEREAS, with the help of the National Association for the Advancement
31 of Colored People, the school board sought an injunction against
32 segregationists, eventually drawing the federal government into a case that
33 nullified state segregation laws; and segregationist leaders were so furious
34 over the loss that they turned on Governor Orval Faubus in the next primary,
35 forcing him out of his previous moderate stance and setting up the 1957
36 confrontation at Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas; and



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WHEREAS, the first court battle for school desegregation in the small northeastern Arkansas town of Hoxie changed the face of Arkansas public schools,

NOW THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives recognize the importance and positive impact that the courage of the Hoxie School District, the school board, the school employees, the parents, and the students had on this state, commend them for their perseverance, and thank them for helping transform Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy be provided to Radius Baker, Superintendent of Hoxie Public Schools by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.