

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009

SR 2

4
5 By: Senator Steele

6
7
8 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

9 CONGRATULATING BARACK OBAMA ON HIS HISTORIC
10 ELECTION AS THE FORTY-FOURTH PRESIDENT OF THE
11 UNITED STATES.

12
13 **Subtitle**

14 CONGRATULATING BARACK OBAMA ON HIS
15 HISTORIC ELECTION AS THE FORTY-FOURTH
16 PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

17
18
19 WHEREAS, Barack Obama, the son of a father from Kenya and a white
20 mother from Kansas, was elected the nation's 44th president Tuesday, November
21 4, 2008, breaking the ultimate racial barrier to become the first African
22 American to claim the country's highest office; and

23
24 WHEREAS, a nation founded by slave owners and seared by civil war and
25 generations of racial strife made a leap in the march toward equality and
26 delivered a smashing electoral college victory to the forty-seven year-old
27 first-term senator from Illinois, who forged a broad, multi-racial and multi-
28 ethnic coalition; and

29
30 WHEREAS, in winning the White House, Obama changed and revitalized the
31 electorate: The ten percent (10%) of voters casting ballots for the first
32 time voted overwhelmingly for Obama; most of the newcomers were younger than
33 thirty (30) years of age; and approximately twenty percent (20%) were African
34 American and twenty percent (20%) Latino – each greater than their share of
35 the overall population; and



1 WHEREAS, Obama won large majorities of female, African American, and
2 Latino voters and fared better among white voters than Democratic nominee
3 John F. Kerry in 2004; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Obama is a graduate of Columbia University and Harvard Law
6 School, where he was president of the *Harvard Law Review*; taught
7 constitutional law at the University of Chicago Law School from 1992 to 2004;
8 and worked as a community organizer and practiced as a civil rights attorney
9 before serving in the Illinois Senate from 1997 to 2004; and
10

11 WHEREAS, following an unsuccessful bid for a seat in the United States
12 House of Representatives in 2000, Obama was elected to the Senate in November
13 2004, and received national acclaim for his keynote address at the Democratic
14 National Convention in July 2004; and
15

16 WHEREAS, as a member of the Democratic minority in the 109th Congress,
17 Obama helped create legislation to control conventional weapons and to
18 promote greater public accountability in the use of federal funds, and made
19 official trips to Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Africa; and
20

21 WHEREAS, during the 110th Congress, Obama helped create legislation
22 regarding lobbying and electoral fraud, climate change, nuclear terrorism,
23 and care for returning U.S. military personnel; and
24

25 WHEREAS, Obama, offering a serious note amid the celebration during his
26 presidential election night victory speech stated, "The road ahead will be
27 long. Our climb will be steep. We may not get there in one year, or even
28 one term. But America, I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that
29 we will get there. I promise you, we as a people will get there",
30

31 NOW THEREFORE,

32 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
33 THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
34

35 THAT the Senate congratulates Barack Obama on his historic election as
36 the forty-fourth President of the United States.