

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

HR 1029

4
5 By: Representative Woods
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8 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

9 COMMENDING MICHAEL MARION ON HIS SUCCESSFUL
10 MANAGEMENT OF ALLTEL ARENA IN NORTH LITTLE ROCK,
11 ARKANSAS.
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13 **Subtitle**

14 COMMENDING MICHAEL MARION ON HIS
15 SUCCESSFUL MANAGEMENT OF ALLTEL ARENA IN
16 NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS.
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19 WHEREAS, Michael Marion is General Manager of Alltel Arena in North
20 Little Rock, Arkansas, a position he has held since 1997 when he moved to
21 Little Rock to assist in the design and construction of the arena until it
22 opened in 1999; and
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24 WHEREAS, Mr. Marion was born and raised in Tupelo, Mississippi;
25 received a Masters' Degree in Business Administration from Mississippi State
26 University in 1978; and worked at Mississippi State University as program
27 advisor, booking Billy Joel, Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band, and
28 Earth, Wind, and Fire; and
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30 WHEREAS, Mr. Marion moved in 1982 to Los Angeles, California, to work
31 as an agent for Triad Artists until 1988; and as an agent for six (6) years,
32 he booked artists such as Tina Turner, Whitney Houston, and Steve Winwood;
33 and
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35 WHEREAS, Mr. Marion returned to Tupelo, Mississippi, in 1988 to become
36 the Director of the Tupelo Coliseum, where he presented artists including Tom



1 Petty, The Eagles, and Reba McEntire; and

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3 WHEREAS, Alltel Arena opened in 1999 with Mr. Marion already on board
4 as General Manager, helping the arena quickly gain stature as a touring
5 location for top national and international acts; and

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7 WHEREAS, Mr. Marion brings in an average of twenty (20) concerts per
8 year to Alltel Arena, including regular sold-out performances by Kenny
9 Chesney and the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, top-grossing act the Rolling Stones
10 in 2006, second-largest grossing act The Eagles, largest-attendance act
11 George Strait in 2006, and teen-favorite Hannah Montana; and

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13 WHEREAS, Mr. Marion was instrumental in bringing to Alltel Arena the
14 2003 SEC Women's Basketball Tournament, setting attendance records and
15 leading to the SEC 2005 Women's Basketball Tournament, the Gymnastics
16 Championships in 2008, the NCAA 2008 Men's Basketball Tournament, and the SEC
17 2009 Women's Basketball Tournament; and

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19 WHEREAS, Mr. Marion's success in bringing to Alltel Arena musical and
20 sporting events, including Jermaine Taylor boxing events among others, has
21 had a significant economic impact on Central Arkansas; and

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23 WHEREAS, Mr. Marion has brought in approximately four million four
24 hundred thousand (4,400,000) people to Alltel Arena since its opening in
25 1999; and

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27 WHEREAS, Mr. Marion was named Pollstar Magazine Facility Executive of
28 the Year in 2004; is an International Association of Assembly Managers
29 Certified Facilities Executive; is a member of the Arena Managers Network,
30 the Senior Executive Symposium, the Concert Industry Consortium, Billboard,
31 and Pollstar; is a member of Main Street Argenta, the Riverfest Board of
32 Directors, the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, the North Little Rock Chamber
33 of Commerce, the Downtown Partnership, Argenta Downtown Council, and the
34 North Little Rock Public Relations and Marketing Committee; and serves as
35 Scoutmaster to his 12-year-old son Jonah's Boy Scout Troop 604 in Little
36 Rock, Arkansas; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Marion is married to former agent and Los Angeles native Meg Goldenberg,

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

THAT the House of Representatives commends Mr. Michael Marion on his successful management of Alltel Arena and his ability to draw high-profile touring acts to Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy shall be provided to Mr. Marion by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.