

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

HR 1033

4
5 By: Representatives Wills, Hardy, G. Smith

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8 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

9 RECOGNIZING JOHN L. MCCLELLAN DAY.

10
11 **Subtitle**

12 RECOGNIZING JOHN L. MCCLELLAN DAY.

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14
15 WHEREAS, John Little McClellan was born February 25, 1896, in Sheridan,
16 Arkansas; and

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18 WHEREAS, Mr. McClellan began his legal education as a ten-year-old boy
19 by reading Blackstone's *Commentaries on the Laws of England*, and at age
20 seventeen (17) became the youngest lawyer in America by a special act of the
21 General Assembly in Arkansas; and

22
23 WHEREAS, though Mr. McClellan had only recently commenced his practice
24 of law, Mr. McClellan answered the call of his nation soon after the
25 beginning of World War I by joining the Aviation Section of the U.S. Army
26 Signal Corps in 1917 and serving as a first lieutenant; and

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28 WHEREAS, after Mr. McClellan was honorably discharged from military
29 service in 1919, he resumed his law practice and his association with the
30 Democratic Party; served as city attorney for Malvern, Arkansas, and
31 prosecuting attorney for Hot Spring County, Arkansas; and was elected to
32 Congress in 1934 as a United States Representative, where he served two (2)
33 terms and supported President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal; and

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35 WHEREAS, after Representative McClellan's first unsuccessful bid for
36 the United States Senate in 1938 against incumbent Senator Hattie Caraway, he



1 resumed his practice of law in Camden, Arkansas. He was successful in his
2 second Senate campaign in 1942, an achievement he would repeat five (5) more
3 times before his death in November 1977, making him the longest-serving
4 senator in Arkansas history; and

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6 WHEREAS, Senator McClellan’s long tenure in office benefited his native
7 Arkansas, its people, and the nation as a whole, as he spearheaded many vital
8 and important projects, including flood and navigation control of the
9 Arkansas River following the Great Flood of 1927, securing passage of Title
10 III of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, and the
11 Organized Crime Control Act of 1970, as well as legislation to strengthen the
12 Federal Rules of Evidence; and

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14 WHEREAS, Senator McClellan served for twenty-two (22) years as chair of
15 the Committee on Government Operations and as chair of the Senate Permanent
16 Subcommittee on Investigations, holding numerous hearings about subversive
17 activities in the United States Army Signal Corps; and

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19 WHEREAS, as the ranking Democrat of the Committee on Government
20 Operations, Senator McClellan participated in the 1954 Army McCarthy
21 hearings, where he led a Democratic walkout to protest the improper
22 activities of then-chair Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, who was subsequently
23 censored by the United States Senate; and

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25 WHEREAS, Senator McClellan labored diligently to fight for
26 modernization of the nation’s criminal justice system and became the
27 unequivocal and acknowledged authority in Congress on criminal investigations
28 and federal legislation; and

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30 WHEREAS, Senator McClellan was instrumental in combating organized
31 crime and political corruption through passage of federal legislation,
32 including a bill of rights for labor union members, and through his
33 unrelenting investigation and eventual decimation of the most notorious and
34 sophisticated organized crime families in major United States cities, the
35 Cosa Nostra or Mafia; and

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1 WHEREAS, Senator McClellan was the deserving recipient of numerous
2 awards and honors by both the State of Arkansas and the nation, including the
3 1976 Harry S. Truman Award for Distinguished Service in Support of National
4 Defense; and

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6 WHEREAS, February 25, 2009, marks the 113th anniversary of the birth of
7 Senator John Little McClellan;

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9 NOW THEREFORE,

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

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13 THAT the House of Representatives recognizes Senator John Little
14 McClellan's unparalleled service to the State of Arkansas and the nation and
15 recognizes February 25, 2009, as John L. McClellan Day.

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate
18 copy shall be provided to the family of Mr. McClellan by the Chief Clerk of
19 the House of Representatives.