

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013

HR 1014

4
5 By: Representative Word
6

7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 TO HONOR WILLIE CAVANAUGH HOCKER AS THE CREATOR OF
9 THE ARKANSAS STATE FLAG ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF
10 THE FLAG; TO PROCLAIM FEBRUARY 26, 2013, AS WILLIE
11 KAVANAUGH HOCKER DAY; AND TO SUPPORT THE
12 ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEMORIAL IN WABBASEKA, ARKANSAS,
13 HONORING WILLIE KAVANAUGH HOCKER AND THE OFFICIAL
14 STATE FLAG THAT SHE DESIGNED.
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17 **Subtitle**

18 TO HONOR WILLIE KAVANAUGH HOCKER AS THE
19 CREATOR OF THE ARKANSAS STATE FLAG; TO
20 COMMEMORATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
21 ARKANSAS STATE FLAG; AND TO SUPPORT AN
22 APPROPRIATE MEMORIAL IN WABBASEKA,
23 ARKANSAS.
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26 WHEREAS, Willie Kavanaugh Hocker was born on July 21, 1862, in Madison
27 County, Kentucky, moved with her family to Arkansas in 1870, taught school in
28 Pine Bluff and Wabbaseka for 34 years and established residences in both
29 cities, was a published poet and short story author, best known for her poems
30 "Arkansas" and "Ozark Mountaineer", and died in her home in Wabbaseka on
31 February 6, 1944; and
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33 WHEREAS, Willie Hocker represented Arkansas at the National Federation
34 of Business and Professional Women Clubs' Pageant of Famous Women of the
35 United States in 1929, was a longtime member of the Daughters of the American
36 Revolution, and on October 14, 1938, the respected educator was honored by



1 the Wabaseka School Board's dedication of the first modern brick building in
2 Jefferson County, a newly built high school in her honor; and

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4 WHEREAS, in the early 1900's the U.S.S. Arkansas was a newly
5 commissioned Navy battleship, and the roots of the official state flag, which
6 originated in Jefferson County, can be traced to 1912 when the Pine Bluff
7 Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution resolved to present a
8 naval battalion ensign and a state flag for the new ship; and

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10 WHEREAS, at the chapter's urging, Secretary of State Earl W. Hodges
11 initiated a contest seeking potential designs for the flag and agreed to
12 chair a legislative committee to select the winning design; and

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14 WHEREAS, in 1913 the committee chose a red, white, and blue design
15 submitted by Willie Hocker of Wabaseka, Arkansas, from among 65 entries, and
16 Willie Hocker is one of only two women in the United States to have her
17 design adopted as an official state flag; and

18
19 WHEREAS, the design featured a rectangular red field upon which was
20 centered a white rhombus diamond bordered by twenty-five white stars on a
21 blue band, three blue stars centered on the flag's horizontal axis on a white
22 field within the rhombus completing the plan, and the three blue stars in the
23 center field bore several meanings: first, that Arkansas had successively
24 belonged to the three countries of France, Spain, and the United States
25 before statehood; second, that 1803 was the year of the Louisiana Purchase,
26 which included present-day Arkansas; and third, that Arkansas was the third
27 state created from the Louisiana Purchase; and

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29 WHEREAS, the design's twenty-five white stars symbolized that Arkansas
30 was the twenty-fifth state admitted to the Union; and the diamond marked
31 Arkansas's status as the nation's only diamond-producing state; and

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33 WHEREAS, the committee decreed that the flag ought to bear the state's
34 name; the designer of the flag assented and suggested that the three blue
35 stars be arranged with one above the name and two below; on February 26,
36 1913, the General Assembly adopted the design as the state's official flag;

1 the design remained unchanged until 1923, when the General Assembly added a
2 fourth star to the central diamond to represent Arkansas's membership in the
3 Confederate States of America; at first, the stars were arranged with two
4 above and two below the state's name, but the Second Extraordinary Session in
5 1924 placed three stars below and one above, with the three lower stars
6 arranged as an inverted triangle and a new element of symbolism was added by
7 the twin stars immediately below the state's name, suggesting the twin
8 relationship of Arkansas and Michigan, which were admitted to the Union
9 within approximately seven months of each other, maintaining the balance
10 between free and slave states in Congress; and

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12 WHEREAS, the Arkansas state flag is today flown over thousands of
13 governmental and private locations throughout the state and the State of
14 Arkansas is proud to observe the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the
15 official state flag,

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17 NOW THEREFORE,

18 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL
19 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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21 THAT the House of Representatives honors the memory and accomplishments
22 of Willie Kavanaugh Hocker as the mother of the Arkansas state flag and
23 salutes the 100th anniversary of the flag.

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the House of Representatives declares February
26 26, 2013, Willie Kavanaugh Hocker Day and supports and encourages the
27 establishment of a memorial in her hometown, Wabbaseka, Arkansas, honoring
28 Willie Kavanaugh Hocker and the official flag for the State of Arkansas that
29 she designed.