

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

HR 1029

4
5 By: Representative B. Overbey

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7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 COMMENDING DR. RICK NIECE AND SHERÉE NIECE FOR THEIR
9 SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF THE OZARKS AND
10 CONGRATULATING THEM FOR THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS WHILE
11 SERVING AS PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY OF THE UNIVERSITY
12 OF THE OZARKS.

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15 **Subtitle**

16 COMMENDING DR. RICK NIECE AND SHERÉE
17 NIECE FOR THEIR SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY
18 OF THE OZARKS.

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21 WHEREAS, Dr. Rick Niece has served as the University of the Ozarks'
22 president since April 26, 1997; and

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24 WHEREAS, Sherée Niece has worked side by side with her husband as First
25 Lady of the University of the Ozarks since his tenure as President began; and

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27 WHEREAS, Dr. Niece will retire from his presidency of the University of
28 the Ozarks in the summer of 2013; and

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30 WHEREAS, under Dr. Niece's leadership, student enrollment has
31 increased, the endowment has grown by more than two hundred percent (200%),
32 and the number of faculty has increased from twenty-eight (28) to forty-eight
33 (48); and

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35 WHEREAS, during Dr. Niece's tenure as president, the University of the
36 Ozarks had added several new facilities, including four (4) apartment-style



1 residence halls, the Walker Hall teacher education and communications center,
2 the Rogers Conference Center and the Mabee Student Fitness Center; and

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4 WHEREAS, through Dr. and Mrs. Niece's relentless and tireless efforts,
5 the University of the Ozarks has had unparalleled fund-raising success,
6 raising nearly one hundred forty million dollars (\$140,000,000) during the
7 past fifteen (15) years; and

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9 WHEREAS, due in large part to Dr. Niece's leadership, the University of
10 the Ozarks has consistently been rated among the top institutions of higher
11 education in the region by publications and surveys such as U.S. News & World
12 Report, National Survey of Student Engagement, and The Chronicle of Higher
13 Education's Great Colleges to Work For; and

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15 WHEREAS, the University of the Ozarks was listed as the "top-rated best
16 value in the South" by U.S. News & World Report's 2012 edition of "America's
17 Best Colleges"; and

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19 WHEREAS, the loan debt for graduates of the University of the Ozarks
20 is below the national average as Dr. Niece has striven to keep the cost of a
21 college education affordable; and

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23 WHEREAS, Dr. Niece has been described as "an inspirational leader whose
24 optimism, enthusiasm for education, and unwavering support of students daily
25 conveys the Ozarks' mission", that mission being to provide the best
26 education possible for each student every time; and

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28 WHEREAS, having no children of their own, Dr. and Mrs. Niece consider
29 the students of the University of the Ozarks their "kids", hosting numerous
30 activities for the students and considering their best times to have been
31 during Freshmen Dinners, Senior Dinners, Super Bowl Parties, Pumpkin Carving
32 Parties, Movie Nights, and many more student-included activities; and

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34 WHEREAS, the Nieces' legacy of interaction with, and support of, the
35 students of the University of the Ozarks has enriched the lives of the
36 students and influenced students to better prepare for the future; and

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2 WHEREAS, Dr. Niece's encouragement of student, faculty, and staff
3 participation on committees of the Board of Directors has led to mentoring
4 relationships and friendships, enriching the lives of students, faculty,
5 staff, and board members alike; and
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7 WHEREAS, the students of the University of the Ozarks, through Dr. and
8 Mrs. Niece's modeling of hospitality and servant leadership, have learned to
9 strive to meet and exceed the high standards set by Dr. and Mrs. Niece; and
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11 WHEREAS, Sherée Niece's work with the University of the Ozarks Women in
12 such projects as christmas angels, breast cancer awareness, the birthday
13 calendar, and scholarship programs has helped the university to have a
14 tremendous impact not only on campus, but throughout the community,
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16 NOW THEREFORE,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL
18 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 THAT the House of Representatives commends Dr. Rick and Sherée Niece
21 for their unselfish and exemplary service to the University of the Ozarks and
22 congratulates them on their many accomplishments while serving as President
23 and First Lady of the University of the Ozarks.
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption of this resolution, a copy shall be
26 provided to Dr. Rick and Sherée Niece by the Chief Clerk of the House of
27 Representatives.
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