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HR 1044

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5 By: Representatives F. Allen, Blake, K. Ferguson, Nicks, Tucker

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HISTORIC

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INTEGRATION OF LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL.

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Subtitle

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COMMEMORATING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE

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HISTORIC INTEGRATION OF LITTLE ROCK

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CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL.

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WHEREAS, September 25, 2017, will mark the 60th anniversary of the first full day of integration of Little Rock's historic Central High School; and

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WHEREAS, numerous events are planned through late September 2017, including the installation of a sculpture on the grounds of Central High School, education forums, interfaith services, and a concert fundraiser at Robinson Center Performance Hall for the Little Rock Nine Foundation, culminating with a ceremony at Quigley Stadium of Central High School on September 25, 2017, featuring remarks by the surviving members of the Little Rock Nine and other dignitaries; and

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WHEREAS, on the morning of September 23, 1957, nine (9) African-American teenagers now commonly and affectionately known as the "Little Rock Nine" held the line against an angry mob protesting integration in front of Little Rock's Central High School; and

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WHEREAS, as the students met their new classmates for the first time inside the school, violence escalated outside, and the Little Rock police

36



1 removed the Little Rock Nine from the school for their safety. The next day
2 President Dwight D. Eisenhower ordered the United States Army's 101st
3 Airborne Division into Little Rock to escort the nine (9) students into
4 Central High School, and each student was assigned his or her own guard; and
5

6 WHEREAS, as Melba Patillo Beals later remembered, "After three full
7 days inside Central, I knew that integration [was] a much bigger word than I
8 thought"; and
9

10 WHEREAS, the integration of Central High School was broadcast across
11 the nation and around the world; was the site of the first important test for
12 the implementation of the United States Supreme Court's historic decision in
13 the case of Brown v. Board of Education in 1954; became the epitome of state
14 resistance to desegregation when Governor Orval Faubus directly questioned
15 the authority of the federal court system and the validity of desegregation;
16 and forced the nation to resolve to enforce African-American civil rights in
17 the face of massive southern defiance during the years following the Brown v.
18 Board of Education decision; and
19

20 WHEREAS, the Little Rock Nine should be commended individually for
21 their courage, determination, and significant roles in the civil rights
22 movement; and
23

24 WHEREAS, Minnijean Brown Trickey was born September 11, 1941, in Little
25 Rock and entered Central High School at the age of sixteen (16). Although all
26 of the Little Rock Nine experienced verbal and physical harassment during the
27 1957-1958 school year at Central, Minnijean Brown Trickey was the first
28 suspended and later expelled for retaliating against the daily torment. She
29 moved to New York in February, 1958, and lived with Doctors Kenneth B. and
30 Mamie Clark, both African-American psychologists. Minnijean Brown Trickey
31 graduated from New York's New Lincoln High School in 1959 and attended
32 Southern Illinois University, majoring in journalism. She later moved to
33 Canada where she received a bachelor's degree in Social Work in Native Human
34 Services from Laurentian University and a master's degree in Social Work from
35 Carleton University in Ontario, Canada. Minnijean Brown Trickey is a social
36 activist and has worked on behalf of peacemaking, environmental issues,

1 *developing youth leadership, diversity education and training, cross-cultural*
2 *communication, and gender and social justice advocacy. She served in the*
3 *Clinton Administration as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Workforce Diversity*
4 *at the United States Department of the Interior from 1999 to 2001. Trickey*
5 *has taught social work at Carleton University and in various community*
6 *colleges in Canada and is the recipient of numerous awards for her community*
7 *work for social justice, including the Lifetime Achievement Tribute by the*
8 *Canadian Race Relations Foundation and the International Wolf Award for*
9 *contributions to racial harmony; and*

10
11 *WHEREAS, the image of fifteen-year-old Elizabeth Eckford walking alone*
12 *through a screaming mob in front of Central High School propelled the*
13 *integration crisis into the nation's living rooms and brought international*
14 *attention to Little Rock. Elizabeth Eckford was born on October 4, 1941, and*
15 *is one (1) of six (6) children. On September 4, 1957, Eckford arrived at*
16 *Central High School alone, got off the bus one (1) block from the school, and*
17 *tried to enter the campus but was turned away by Arkansas National Guard*
18 *troops. She then confronted an angry mob of people opposing integration,*
19 *chanting, "Two, four, six, eight, we ain't gonna integrate." As she made her*
20 *way down the block, Eckford attempted two (2) more times to enter the school*
21 *campus but was blocked by the guardsmen, who were there under orders from the*
22 *Governor to keep the black students out. Eckford made her way through the mob*
23 *and sat on a bus bench at the end of the block. She was eventually able to*
24 *board a city bus and went to her mother's job at the Arkansas School for the*
25 *Deaf. Because all of the city's high schools were closed the following year,*
26 *Eckford did not graduate from Central High School. She joined the United*
27 *States Army and was able to earn her general equivalency diploma and returned*
28 *to Little Rock in the 1960s to be closer to her parents. She attended Central*
29 *State University in Wilberforce, Ohio. Eckford is an Army veteran and has*
30 *taken jobs in a variety of settings throughout her life as a waitress, a*
31 *history teacher, a welfare worker, an unemployment and employment*
32 *interviewer, and a military reporter. In 1997, she received the Father Joseph*
33 *Blitz Award of the National Conference for Community and Justice; and*

34
35 *WHEREAS, Ernest Green was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, on September*
36 *22, 1941. Green made history as the only senior among the Little Rock Nine.*

1 *His place in Arkansas' civil rights history was solidified when he persevered*
2 *through a year of daily harassment by some of his fellow students to become*
3 *the first African-American Central High School graduate on May 27, 1958.*
4 *Sitting with Green's family at the event was the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther*
5 *King, Jr., who attended the graduation virtually unnoticed. An active member*
6 *of the community from an early age, Green regularly attended church. He was*
7 *involved in the Boy Scouts and eventually became an Eagle Scout. He was a*
8 *student at Horace Mann High School before volunteering to integrate the all-*
9 *white Central High School. After graduating from high school, Green attended*
10 *Michigan State University, earning a bachelor's degree in 1962 and a master's*
11 *degree in sociology in 1964. Afterwards, he served as the director for the A.*
12 *Phillip Randolph Education Fund from 1968 to 1977. He then was appointed the*
13 *Assistant Secretary of Labor during President Jimmy Carter's administration*
14 *from 1977 to 1981. Green was a Managing Director of Barclays Capital*
15 *(formerly Lehman Brothers) from 1987 until 2009 and now serves on the*
16 *advisory board of AFIG Funds. He has served on numerous boards, such as the*
17 *National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the*
18 *Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation. In 1992, Disney produced a television*
19 *special The Ernest Green Story which is still popular today for students of*
20 *all ages and used in classrooms around the world to teach about the Little*
21 *Rock Nine; and*

22
23 *WHEREAS, Thelma Mothershed Wair was born in 1940 in Bloomberg, Texas.*
24 *Wair attended Dunbar Junior High School and Horace Mann High School before*
25 *transferring to Central High School. Despite daily torment from white*
26 *students at Central High School, she completed her junior year at the*
27 *formerly all-white high school during the tumultuous 1957-1958 school year.*
28 *Because the city's high schools were closed the following year, Wair earned*
29 *the necessary credits for graduation through correspondence courses and by*
30 *attending summer school in St. Louis, Missouri. She received her diploma from*
31 *Central High School by mail. Thelma Mothershed Wair graduated from Southern*
32 *Illinois University, Carbondale, in 1964 and earned her master's degree in*
33 *Guidance and Counseling Education, as well as an Administrative Certificate*
34 *in Education from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville. Wair taught*
35 *home economics in the East St. Louis school system for twenty-eight (28)*
36 *years before retiring in 1994. Wair has also worked at the St. Clair County*

1 *Jail, Juvenile Detention Center in St. Clair County, Illinois, and was an*
2 *instructor of survival skills for women at the American Red Cross Shelter for*
3 *the homeless. During the 1989-1990 school year, she was honored as an*
4 *Outstanding Role Model by the East St. Louis, Illinois, chapter of the Top*
5 *Ladies of Distinction and the early childhood/pre-kindergarten staff of*
6 *District 189; and*

7
8 *WHEREAS, Melba Pattillo Beals was born on December 7, 1941, in Little*
9 *Rock, Arkansas. She later recounted her experience at Central High School in*
10 *her book Warriors Don't Cry: A Searing Memoir of the Battle To Desegregate*
11 *Little Rock's Central High School. Beals grew up surrounded by family members*
12 *who knew the importance of an education. Her mother, Lois Patillo, PhD, had*
13 *been among the first African-Americans to graduate from the University of*
14 *Arkansas in 1954. At Central High, Beals faced daily harassment from white*
15 *students and as Beals later recounted, the soldier assigned to protect her*
16 *instructed, "In order to get through this year, you will have to become a*
17 *soldier. Never let your enemy know what you are feeling." Beals took the*
18 *soldier's advice and finished the school year. Barred from entering Central*
19 *High School the following year when the city's schools were closed, Beals*
20 *moved to Santa Rosa, California, for her senior year of high school. Beals*
21 *graduated from San Francisco State University with a bachelor's degree. She*
22 *earned a master's degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of*
23 *Journalism, worked as a reporter for NBC, and has served as a communications*
24 *consultant. Beals was also the first of the Little Rock Nine to write a book*
25 *based on her experiences at Central High School. Published in 1995, the book*
26 *is a first-hand account of the trials and tribulations that Beals and the*
27 *other eight (8) students encountered from segregationists and racist*
28 *students. The book was named an ALA Notable Book for 1995 and won the Robert*
29 *F. Kennedy Book Award that same year. She has also written White is a State*
30 *of Mind, published in 1999, which follows Beals from her senior year in high*
31 *school to her college and family days in California and serves as a sequel to*
32 *Warriors Don't Cry; and*

33
34 *WHEREAS, Carlotta Walls LaNier, the oldest of three (3) daughters, was*
35 *born on December 18, 1942, in Little Rock, Arkansas. LaNier made history as*
36 *the youngest member of the Little Rock Nine. Inspired by Rosa Parks, she had*

1 a desire to get the best education available by enrolling in Central High
2 School. White students called her names and spat on her while armed guards
3 escorted her to classes, but LaNier concentrated on her studies throughout
4 the school year. LaNier was prevented from attending Central High School the
5 next year when the Little Rock high schools were closed, but she returned to
6 Central High School and graduated in 1960. LaNier attended Michigan State
7 University for two (2) years before moving with her family to Denver. In
8 1968, she earned a bachelor's degree from Colorado State College, now the
9 University of Northern Colorado, and began working at the Young Women's
10 Christian Association as a program administrator for teenagers. In 1977, she
11 founded LaNier and Company, a real estate brokerage firm. Her experience in
12 real estate includes everything from constructing and remodeling properties
13 to marketing and selling them. LaNier has served as the president of the
14 Little Rock Nine Foundation, a scholarship organization dedicated to ensuring
15 equal access to education for African-Americans. She has also served as a
16 trustee for the Iliff School of Theology. In 2009, she published her memoir,
17 A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School;
18 and

19
20 WHEREAS, Terrence Roberts was born December 3, 1941, in Little Rock,
21 Arkansas. Roberts was a sophomore at Horace Mann High School when he
22 volunteered to integrate Central High School. When the city's high schools
23 were closed to prevent further desegregation, Roberts moved to Los Angeles,
24 California, and graduated from Los Angeles High School in 1959. Following his
25 graduation from high school, Roberts attended California State University and
26 was awarded a bachelor's degree in sociology in 1967. He went on to attend
27 graduate school at the University of California at Los Angeles and received a
28 master's degree in social welfare in 1970. In 1976, Roberts was awarded a
29 Ph.D. in psychology from Southern Illinois University. He served as co-chair
30 of the psychology master's degree program at Antioch College in Los Angeles,
31 California and also taught graduate courses there. In addition to serving as
32 CEO of Terrence J. Roberts and Associates Management Consulting Firm, he
33 maintains a private psychology practice and is desegregation consultant to
34 the Little Rock School District. In 2009, Roberts published a memoir entitled
35 Lessons from Little Rock, which was followed in 2010 by his second book,
36 Simple Not Easy: Reflections on Community Social Responsibility and

1 Tolerance. Roberts has served on the boards of the Economic Resources Center
2 in Southern California, Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena, Eisenhower World
3 Affairs Institute, and Little Rock Nine Foundation; and

4
5 WHEREAS, Jefferson Thomas was born in 1942 in Little Rock, Arkansas. A
6 quiet young man with a sense of humor, Thomas was a track athlete at Horace
7 Mann High School when he chose to volunteer to integrate all-white Central
8 High School for the 1957-1958 school year as a sophomore. The Little Rock
9 Nine were harassed daily by white students, and Thomas' quiet demeanor made
10 him a target for bullies at the school. He graduated from Central High School
11 in 1960 and eventually became an accountant for the United States Department
12 of Defense. Thomas attended what is now California State University in Los
13 Angeles, where he received a degree in business administration. In 1964,
14 Thomas narrated the documentary Nine from Little Rock, which won an Academy
15 Award. Jefferson Thomas passed away on September 5, 2010, in Columbus, Ohio;
16 and

17
18 WHEREAS, Gloria Cecelia Ray Karlmark was born September 26, 1942, in
19 Little Rock. She was the third child of H.C. Ray, Sr. and Julia Miller Ray.
20 Mr. Ray was already a retired federal employee when Gloria entered Central
21 High. H.C. Ray, Sr. had founded the Arkansas Agricultural Extension Service
22 for Negroes after retiring from the United States Department of Agriculture.
23 These facts strongly influenced Gloria Ray's choice to attend Central High
24 School. She was fourteen (14) years of age when she finished Dunbar Junior
25 High School and registered to attend Central High School for her sophomore
26 year. Ray, like the others of the Little Rock Nine, was tormented by certain
27 white students who called her names, threw things at her, spit at her,
28 vandalized her locker, and even pushed her down a flight of stairs. Still,
29 like the others, she was determined to finish the year. The following year
30 when all public high schools in Little Rock remained closed, Ray moved to
31 Missouri, where her mother had been able to find employment, and attended the
32 newly integrated Kansas City Central High School. After high school
33 graduation, she attended the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. She
34 graduated in 1965 with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and mathematics. In
35 1966, she joined the Illinois Institute of Technology's Research Institute as
36 Assistant Mathematician on the APT IV (robotics) project, which included work

1 at Boeing in Seattle, McDonnell-Douglas in Santa Monica and NASA Automation
2 Center in St. Louis. In 1970, Gloria Ray Karlmark joined IBM Nordic
3 Laboratory in Sweden, working as a system analyst/technical writer. After
4 graduating as patent attorney from Kungliga Patent & Registreringsverket in
5 Stockholm, 1977, Ray Karlmark worked for IBM International Patent Operations
6 as European Patent Attorney until 1981, when she moved to Belgium and began
7 working for N.V. Philips Gloeilampenfabrieken as CAD/CAM and Technical
8 Product Documentation Specialist. From 1976 to 1994, Ray Karlmark founded and
9 served as Editor-in-Chief of Computers in Industry, an international journal
10 of practice and experience of computer applications in industry. In 1994, she
11 went to work in the Netherlands, first for Philips Telecommunications in
12 Hilversum and later for Philips Lighting in Eindhoven; and

13
14 WHEREAS, as astutely put by Ernest Green, "We kids [integrated Central
15 High School] mainly because we didn't know any better, but our parents were
16 willing to put their careers and their homes on the line"; and

17
18 WHEREAS, the trials and tribulations of the Little Rock Nine and their
19 families should always be remembered as beacons of strength in the face of
20 overwhelming odds, dignity in the face of adversity, courage in the face of
21 hostility, and perseverance for the betterment of their fellow man and the
22 ultimate success of the civil rights movement,

23
24 NOW THEREFORE,

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL
26 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

27
28 THAT the House of Representatives respectfully commemorates the 60th
29 anniversary of the historic integration of Little Rock Central High School
30 and honors the achievements of the Little Rock Nine and their families.

31
32 /s/F. Allen
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