

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Fiscal Session, 2022

HR 1037

4  
5 By: Representatives C. Fite, Barker, Bentley, Brown, Cavanaugh, Crawford, Dalby, M. Gray, Haak,  
6 Lundstrum, J. Mayberry, McKenzie, Speaks, Vaught

7  
8 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

9 TO REMEMBER AND COMMEMORATE UNITED STATES SENATOR  
10 HATTIE OPHELIA WYATT CARAWAY FOR HER MANY NOTABLE  
11 CONTRIBUTIONS TO WOMEN'S HISTORY.

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14 **Subtitle**

15 TO REMEMBER AND COMMEMORATE UNITED STATES  
16 SENATOR HATTIE OPHELIA WYATT CARAWAY FOR  
17 HER MANY NOTABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO WOMEN'S  
18 HISTORY.

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20  
21 WHEREAS, March 1 is the first day of Women's History Month which is  
22 annually declared and nationally celebrated to highlight the contributions of  
23 women to events in history and contemporary society; and

24  
25 WHEREAS, Women's History Month is also celebrated during March in the  
26 United Kingdom and Australia; and

27  
28 WHEREAS, Arkansas holds a significant role in the history and the  
29 accomplishment of women by being home to the first woman ever elected to the  
30 United States Senate, Mrs. Hattie Ophelia Wyatt Caraway (D-AR), in 1932; and

31  
32 WHEREAS, Hattie Caraway was appointed to the United States Senate in  
33 1931 to fill the vacancy caused by the death of her husband, United States  
34 Senator Thaddeus Caraway; and

35  
36 WHEREAS, party leaders assumed the widow had no intention of running



1 for a full term, but they clearly underestimated Hattie Caraway; and

2  
3 WHEREAS, when on May 9, 1932, Hattie Caraway surprised everyone and  
4 declared her candidacy for reelection, she noted in her diary, "I pitched a  
5 coin and heads came [up] three times", and she added, "I really want to try  
6 out my own theory of a woman running for office"; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, Hattie Caraway's male competitors joked that she would be  
9 lucky to attract 1 percent (1%) of the vote, but the tenacious "little lady  
10 from Arkansas" enlisted the persuasive skills of her friend, Louisiana United  
11 States Senator Huey Long; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, the highlight of her 1932 campaign came in August, when the  
14 controversial Senator Huey Long joined Hattie Caraway for a week-long road  
15 trip nicknamed the "Hattie and Huey Tour"; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, when the Hattie and Huey Tour went storming through Arkansas  
18 with his big sound trucks, Long bellowed: "We're here to pull a lot of pot-  
19 bellied politicians off a little woman's neck"; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, giving her own stump speeches alongside the "Louisiana  
22 Kingfish", Hattie Caraway won the election with double the vote of her  
23 nearest rival and continued serving in the United States Senate until 1945;  
24 and

25  
26 WHEREAS, Hattie Caraway was known for her silent strength, gaining the  
27 nickname "Silent Hattie" and reserving her opinions for smaller committee  
28 meetings and quiet room discussions instead of the United States Senate  
29 floor; and

30  
31 WHEREAS, Hattie Caraway became an effective legislator and continued to  
32 break many gender barriers in the United States Senate, including becoming  
33 the first woman to chair a United States Senate committee in 1933; and

34  
35 WHEREAS, on October 19, 1943, in the absence of the Vice-President and  
36 the President Pro Tempore, the gavel was handed to Senator Hattie Caraway of

1 Arkansas, making her the first woman to formally preside over the United  
2 States Senate, and that day in October 1943 remains a milestone in United  
3 States Senate history; and

4  
5 WHEREAS, when asked about her experience presiding over the United  
6 States Senate, Hattie Caraway told reporters, “Nothing to it”, and added that  
7 after all, the Senate is the “best behaved crowd of men you ever saw”; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, as her career drew to a close, journalist Drew Pearson  
10 commented: “In that turbulent . . . [Senate] chamber, where a person’s good  
11 points or bad quickly shine through the gloss, [Hattie Caraway] held her  
12 own”.; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, on her final day in office, the United States Senate tendered  
15 Hattie Caraway the high honor of a standing ovation; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, we, as the elected women of the General Assembly, recognizing  
18 our fellow Arkansan’s courage, strength, and resolve to break all norms of  
19 the 1930’s society and political standards, proudly honor United States  
20 Senator Hattie Ophelia Wyatt Caraway on this first day of March at the  
21 commencement of Women’s History Month as Senator Caraway serves as an  
22 inspiration to each of us and to our state for her incredible achievements  
23 and place in American history,

24  
25 NOW THEREFORE,

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

28  
29 THAT the House of Representatives remember and commemorate United  
30 States Senator Hattie Ophelia Wyatt Caraway for her many notable  
31 contributions to women’s history.