

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

SR 32

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5 By: Senators Irvin, Bledsoe, B. Davis, J. English

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7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

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

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13 **Subtitle**

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

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

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

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

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

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35 WHEREAS, party leaders assumed the widow had no intention of running  
36 for a full term, but they clearly underestimated Hattie Caraway; and



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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34           WHEREAS, on October 19, 1943, in the absence of the Vice-President and  
35 the President Pro Tempore, the gavel was handed to Senator Hattie Caraway of  
36 Arkansas, making her the first woman to formally preside over the United

1 States Senate, and that day in October 1943 remains a milestone in United  
2 States Senate history; and

3  
4 WHEREAS, when asked about her experience presiding over the United  
5 States Senate, Hattie Caraway told reporters, "Nothing to it", and added that  
6 after all, the Senate is the "best behaved crowd of men you ever saw"; and

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

12  
13 WHEREAS, on her final day in office, the United States Senate tendered  
14 Hattie Caraway the high honor of a standing ovation; and

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

23  
24 NOW THEREFORE,

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
26 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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28 THAT the Senate remember and commemorate United States Senator Hattie  
29 Ophelia Wyatt Caraway for her many notable contributions to women's history.