

State of Arkansas
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

A Bill

SENATE BILL 601

By: Senators Elliott, Bond, L. Chesterfield, S. Flowers

By: Representatives Love, F. Allen, Blake, A. Collins, K. Ferguson, Fielding, V. Flowers, Glover, M. Hodges, Murdock, Nicks, Richardson, Scott, Walker

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE AND EXPEDITE NECESSARY
IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LITTLE ROCK NINE MEMORIAL ON THE
STATE CAPITOL GROUNDS; TO GRANT AUTHORITY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE TO CORRECT A TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR
ON A PLAQUE ACCOMPANYING THE LITTLE ROCK NINE
MEMORIAL; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AUTHORIZE AND EXPEDITE NECESSARY
IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LITTLE ROCK NINE
MEMORIAL ON THE STATE CAPITOL GROUNDS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The General Assembly finds that:

(a) The Little Rock Nine memorial on the State Capitol grounds bears a plaque that states:

“TESTAMENT”

CIVIL RIGHTS MEMORIAL

SCULPTURE OF THE LITTLE ROCK NINE

Facing law and social custom that defined them as second tier citizens, the Little Rock Nine, taking their cue from the ever expanding struggle for civil rights, opted to define themselves quite differently. With the help of



stalwart parents, other family members and those in the community who shared their vision, this group of young people came to understand the reality of their time, but chose to believe in a reality yet to come. It was, in part, this focus that allowed them to suffer the indignities heaped upon them by those who firmly believed in the laws of equality. With the support of countless others around the globe, and especially the guidance of L.C. and Daisy Bates, the Little Rock Nine walked through the doors of Central High School. Their act of courage opened doors symbolically all over segregated America.

SCULPTORS:

DEERING, SCALLION AND DEERING

STUDIO

LEGISLATIVE SPONSORS:

SENATOR TRACY STEELE

SENATOR IRMA HUNTER BROWN

FUNDING BY:

LITTLE ROCK NINE FOUNDATION

WINTHROP ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

83RD, 84TH, 85TH GENERAL

ASSEMBLIES OF THE ARKANSAS

LEGISLATURE

SECRETARY OF STATE CHARLIE DANIELS

GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE

(b)(1) This plaque contains a typographical error.

(2) The sentence that reads “It was, in part, this focus that allowed them to suffer the indignities heaped upon them by those who firmly believed in the laws of equality.” should read as follows:

“It was, in part, this focus that allowed them to suffer the indignities heaped upon them by those who firmly believed in the laws of inequality.”

SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Temporary Language.

(a)(1) The Secretary of State shall replace, reconstruct, or revise the plaque to read as follows:

“TESTAMENT”

CIVIL RIGHTS MEMORIAL

SCULPTURE OF THE LITTLE ROCK NINE

Facing law and social custom that defined them as second tier citizens, the Little Rock Nine, taking their cue from the ever expanding struggle for civil rights, opted to define themselves quite differently. With the help of stalwart parents, other family members and those in the community who shared their vision, this group of young people came to understand the reality of their time, but chose to believe in a reality yet to come. It was, in part, this focus that allowed them to suffer the indignities heaped upon them by those who firmly believed in the laws of inequality. With the support of countless others around the globe, and especially the guidance of L.C. and Daisy Bates, the Little Rock Nine walked through the doors of Central High School. Their act of courage opened doors symbolically all over segregated America.

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SECRETARY OF STATE CHARLIE DANIELS

GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE

(2) The Secretary of State shall revise the phrase that currently reads “the indignities heaped upon them by those who firmly believed in the laws of equality.” to read “the indignities heaped upon them by those who firmly believed in the laws of inequality.”

(b) The Secretary of State shall:

(1) Make any improvements necessary to make the language edit required under this act;

(2) Enter into contracts and agreements necessary to effectuate the requirements of this act; and

(3) Solicit funds in furtherance the purposes of this act.

(c)(1) The Secretary of State shall approve the design and materials used in furtherance of this section.

(2) However, the design and materials shall be as similar to the design and materials used in the remainder of the memorial as necessary to effectuate a seamless design that is as close to the original as possible.

(d) The Capitol Arts and Grounds Commission shall assist the Secretary of State to facilitate the process upon request by the Secretary of State.

APPROVED: 4/8/19