

By: Representative Broadway

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1930
METEORITE IMPACT IN PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS.

Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
1930 METEORITE IMPACT IN PARAGOULD,
ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, this year marks the 85th anniversary of the meteorite impact in Paragould, Arkansas, on February 17, 1930; and

WHEREAS, the fireball of the meteor's entry into Earth's atmosphere was seen throughout the central United States in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Kansas, as livestock stampeded and nearly everyone in Paragould awoke from the sound of three sonic booms at 4:08 AM; and

WHEREAS, the largest of the meteorite's pieces weighed more than 800 pounds, the second-largest of the meteorite's pieces weighed more than 70 pounds, and while a third sonic boom was heard that morning, a third rock was never found; and

WHEREAS, what is now known as the Paragould Meteorite was, at that time, the largest meteorite to ever have been seen falling and then recovered and the largest stony meteoroid in the world; and

WHEREAS, five men and a team of horses spent three hours removing the largest meteorite from its nine-foot hole on a farm belonging to Joe H.



Fletcher; and

WHEREAS, Harvey H. Nininger, an aspiring meteorite collector and professor from McPherson, Kansas, bought the larger stone from Mr. Fletcher and later sold it to Stanley Field, the president of the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, Illinois, and then Mr. Field donated it to the museum; and

WHEREAS, the money from the sale enabled Mr. Nininger to eventually become the most successful meteorite hunter of the century; and

WHEREAS, the Paragould meteorites are a rare type of LL5 Chondrite, and the largest portion of the meteorite is the fourth-largest stony meteorite in the world and the third-largest intact specimen; and

WHEREAS, in 1988, the large meteorite was moved to the University of Arkansas Library where it was displayed on permanent loan and then in 2008, it was moved to be displayed at the University of Arkansas Center for Space and Planetary Science at the Old Museum Building in Fayetteville, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, parts of the meteorite are in collections of researchers worldwide, such as the Max Planck Institute in Germany, the Smithsonian Institution, Harvard University, the National Museum in Washington D.C., and the American Museum of Natural History in New York,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives of the Ninetieth General Assembly recognize the 85th anniversary of the meteorite impact in Paragould, Arkansas.