

By: Senators B. Sample, A. Clark

SENATE RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING THE REOPENING OF THE MID-AMERICA SCIENCE
MUSEUM IN HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS, AND RECOGNIZING ITS
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY.

Subtitle

CELEBRATING THE REOPENING OF THE MID-
AMERICA SCIENCE MUSEUM IN HOT SPRINGS,
ARKANSAS, AND RECOGNIZING ITS
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY.

WHEREAS, Mid-America Science Museum is located on Mid-America Boulevard, off Arkansas Highway 227. The museum first opened on January 20, 1979. Then Governor Bill Clinton dedicated the museum in a grand opening ceremony on April 22, 1979; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the museum is to stimulate interest in science, to promote public understanding of the sciences, and to encourage life-long science education through interactive exhibits and programs; and

WHEREAS, the museum has received several awards over the years including the "Henry Award" from the Governor's Conference on Tourism in 1982 and the "Parent's Choice" award as the Best Museum for Families in 1995. In 2001, the Mid-America Science Museum was selected as a Smithsonian Affiliate, becoming the ninetieth museum in the nation to receive this honor and the first institution in Arkansas to have this prestigious recognition. The museum also partners with NASA for its space education program; and



WHEREAS, in August 2014, the museum closed to undergo its first renovation and expansion since it first opened in 1979. The museum was awarded a \$7.8 million grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation to renovate the facility and install new exhibits in 2011. The museum also received a major donation from the Oaklawn Foundation in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the museum will re-open March 7, 2015, offering new features like the Oaklawn Foundation Digital Dome Theater, the Bob Wheeler Science Skywalk, the Inventors Workshop gallery, and many more exciting attractions; and

WHEREAS, the original Mid-America Science Museum was designed by museum architect E. Verner Johnson and Associates of Boston, Massachusetts and Stuck, Frier, Lane, Scott, Beisner of Little Rock and Jonesboro, Arkansas. Renovations were carried out by Wittenberg, Delony & Davidson Architects of Little Rock; and

WHEREAS, the Mid-America Science Museum is deserving of public recognition and appreciation for its continued commitment to spark a lifelong interest in science in the Arkansas community,

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the Senate of the Ninetieth General Assembly celebrates the re-opening of the Mid-America Science Museum in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and recognizes its contributions to the community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon its adoption a copy of this resolution be presented by the Secretary of the Senate to Diane LaFollette, Executive Director of the museum, Lance B. Garner, Chairman of the museum's Board of Trustees, and Brian Gehrki, Vice Chairman of the museum's Board of Trustees.