

State of Arkansas
92nd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2019

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1950

By: Representatives Glover, V. Flowers, Love, F. Allen, Scott, Burch

By: Senators E. Cheatham, Elliott, L. Chesterfield

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH JOHN H. JOHNSON DAY AS A MEMORIAL
DAY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ESTABLISH JOHN H. JOHNSON DAY AS A
MEMORIAL DAY.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings and intent.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) John H. Johnson is widely regarded as the most influential African-American publisher in United States history;

(2) Mr. Johnson was born in Arkansas City, Arkansas, where he lived until he was in the eighth grade;

(3) After moving to Chicago to attend high school and college, Mr. Johnson began his publishing career;

(4) In 1945, Mr. Johnson launched Ebony which has remained a widely circulated African-American magazine in the world every year since its founding;

(5) Mr. Johnson's publishing career expanded with the creation of Jet, the world's largest African-American newsweekly magazine, and he later expanded his business interests to book publishing, television production, and other business enterprises;

(6) In addition to his business and publishing careers, Mr. Johnson was highly involved in community service at both the local and the



national level; and

(7) Over the course of decades, Mr. Johnson served as a board member or trustee for numerous business, philanthropic, and cultural organizations, and received numerous awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded in 1996 awarded by President Bill Clinton, and more than thirty honorary doctoral degrees from institutions across the country.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to recognize John H. Johnson and his achievements and contributions to the state and the nation by enacting a memorial day in his honor to be celebrated on November 1 each year.

SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 1-5-106, concerning memorial days to be commemorated, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

(13) John H. Johnson Day – November 1.