

By: Representative Scott

**HOUSE RESOLUTION**  
HONORING THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK SIX.

**Subtitle**  
HONORING THE NORTH LITTLE ROCK SIX.

WHEREAS, in 1955, the North Little Rock School Board voted to begin integrating classes at the twelfth-grade level, but after the September 2, 1957 crisis at Central High School in Little Rock, the directors of the North Little Rock School Board put a halt to the integration plan; and

WHEREAS, on September 9, 1957, 6 seniors from the all-black Scipio Jones High School attempted to enroll anyway at North Little Rock High for the 1957–58 school year, including Richard Lindsey, Gerald Persons, Harold Smith, Eugene Hall, Frank Henderson, and William Henderson; were accompanied by 4 African-American ministers, Fred D. Gipson, Daniel J. Webster, John H. Gipson, and Walter B. Banks; and became known as the North Little Rock Six; and

WHEREAS, the 6 students were pushed and shoved away from the front steps by other students as adults watched from across the street; Principal George Miller and Superintendent F. Bruce Wright came out of the school and asked the 6 students to come inside to talk, but the entrance was blocked by students who refused to move even after Superintendent Wright threatened to bar them from admittance to the school for the year; and ultimately, the 6 black students were instructed by Superintendent Wright to meet him at the school administration building for a conference; and



WHEREAS, while local police had been posted at the school since the early morning hours and many were equipped with nightsticks to avert violence, the officers were not instructed to prevent any African-American students from entering the school; by noon on September 9, 1957, the crowd of segregationists had grown to around 200; and Superintendent Wright later told the Associated Press that he advised the 6 students to enroll at Scipio A. Jones High School, stating, "I don't think integration will work at this time, judging from the temperament of the crowd"; and

WHEREAS, the 6 students did not again attempt to integrate the school; and it was not until September 3, 1964, that the North Little Rock School District desegregated when 8 African-American students were admitted at the all-white Clendenin and Riverside elementary schools; and

WHEREAS, these 6 students and their mentors should always be remembered as beacons of strength in the face of overwhelming odds, dignity in the face of adversity, courage in the face of hostility, and perseverance in the struggle for the betterment of their fellow man and the ultimate success of the civil rights movement,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives honor the courage and the dignity of the North Little Rock Six and their families.