

By: Representative Beck
By: Senator M. Johnson

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

TO CELEBRATE THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF ARKANSAS SKY
OBSERVATORIES.

Subtitle

TO CELEBRATE THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF
ARKANSAS SKY OBSERVATORIES.

WHEREAS, in 1971, under the design and directorship of Arkansan P. Clay Sherrod, the first facility of Arkansas Sky Observatories ("ASO") was constructed in central Arkansas, with several more state-of-the-art scientific research centers following; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sherrod and ASO developed one of the first Confirmation Stations for the Harvard-Smithsonian IAU Minor Planet Center Director Dr. Brian Marsden within only two (2) years, serving professional astronomers for nearly fifty (50) years in the studies of new comets, asteroids, novae, and supernovae in galaxies billions of light years distant; and

WHEREAS, ASO has become a leader in comet and asteroid research throughout the previous five (5) decades, with observations and orbital determinations of over one hundred thousand (100,000) dangerous Near Earth Objects that can possibly strike Earth, with this research conducted in concert with Harvard, National Aeronautics and Space Administration Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and Tokyo Observatory; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sherrod has personally achieved an extensive record of



public outreach in the United States through lectures, demonstrations, "star parties", and educational facilitations in schools and for civic and church groups, scouts, communities, and the general public, and has conducted more than ten thousand (10,000) presentations in fifty (50) years; and

WHEREAS, asteroid 117736 has been named "Sherrod" by the International Astronomical Union for the dedication of outreach and research by Mr. Sherrod; and

WHEREAS, ASO and Mr. Sherrod have contributed extensively to the sciences of astronomy, archeology, paleontology, geology, environmental sciences, cellular biology, and evolutionary science, currently operating several observatories, a cellular biological laboratory, a seismic activity facility, and one (1) of the state's most extensive collections of Arkansas index fossils; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sherrod has been recognized internationally for his research and discoveries in archeology of the Western Hemisphere's prehistoric cultures, resulting in four (4) research books and numerous publications; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1986, Mr. Sherrod developed a solar-powered magnetohydrodynamic generator and subsequent alternative energy facilities for classified and proprietary operation by the United States Government; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sherrod has published an impressive and exhaustive total of thirty-seven (37) books, including books in the scientific realms, two (2) novels, three (3) philosophical works, and even a cookbook; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas Sky Observatories is solely operated privately without any acceptance of public funding, and is one of the oldest privately funded research centers in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in April 2021, Arkansas Sky Observatories is celebrating an impressive half-century of contributions to education and the sciences,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the House of Representatives congratulate Arkansas Sky Observatories on its fiftieth anniversary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be provided to Mr. P. Clay Sherrod by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.