

By: Representative C. Fite

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO PROCLAIM APRIL AS DEAF HISTORY MONTH IN THE STATE
OF ARKANSAS.

Subtitle

TO PROCLAIM APRIL AS DEAF HISTORY MONTH
IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, National Deaf History Month is celebrated nationally from April 1st through April 30th; and

WHEREAS, National Deaf History Month was introduced in 1997 by the National Association of the Deaf to help highlight significant events that have impacted the deaf community over the course of history, including the opening of the American School for the Deaf, the first public school for the deaf and hard of hearing, on April 15, 1817, the unveiling of Gallaudet University, the first secondary institution for the deaf and hard of hearing, on April 8, 1864, as well as the nomination of Gallaudet's first deaf president on March 13, 1988; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas has served as the home of many historic Deaf changemakers, and this month is a time to celebrate their incredible achievements as well as continue to raise awareness about the inequities faced by members of these communities, and advocate for the rights of all deaf and hard of hearing persons to thrive; and

WHEREAS, Arkansas School for the Deaf, established in 1849, continues to serve persons of all ages who are deaf, deafblind, or hard of hearing from early childhood to adulthood; and



WHEREAS, we are grateful for the work of all organizations represented within the Arkansas Deaf Leadership Council as they continue to create awareness of and provide education and resources for our residents who are deaf and hard of hearing; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas is committed to promoting opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing Arkansans, as we believe it is important to assure them equal access to the many educational and career opportunities available in our communities and across our state; and

WHEREAS, people who identify themselves as deaf belong to a cultural and linguistic community with shared language, distinct culture, and glorious history in which Arkansas is committed to celebrate,

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the House of Representatives proclaim April as Deaf History Month in the State of Arkansas.