

By: Representatives T. Shephard, Ennett, Springer, J. Richardson

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025, AS THE LINKS LEGISLATIVE DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL, AND TO RECOGNIZE THE LINKS, INCORPORATED FOR ITS SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO ITS CHAPTER COMMUNITIES AND TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

### Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2025, AS THE LINKS LEGISLATIVE DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL, AND TO RECOGNIZE THE LINKS, INCORPORATED FOR ITS SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO ITS CHAPTER COMMUNITIES AND TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, The Links, Incorporated is an international, not-for-profit corporation established in 1946 by Margaret Rosell Hawkins and Sarah Strickland Scott; and

WHEREAS, the membership of The Links, Incorporated consists of more than seventeen thousand (17,000) professional women of African descent in two hundred ninety-nine (299) chapters found in forty-one (41) states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, and the United Kingdom; and

WHEREAS, The Links, Incorporated is one of the nation's oldest and largest volunteer service organizations, made up of extraordinary women committed to enriching, sustaining, and ensuring the culture and economic



survival of African Americans and other people of African ancestry; and

WHEREAS, the chapters of The Links, Incorporated collectively know the importance of their motto, "Our VOICE. Our VOTE. Our POWER."; and

WHEREAS, members of The Links, Incorporated are influential decision makers, opinion leaders, and distinguished achievers; and

WHEREAS, the programs of The Links, Incorporated are implemented through five (5) program facets:

- (1) Services to youth;
- (2) The arts;
- (3) National trends and services;
- (4) International trends and services; and
- (5) Health and human services; and

WHEREAS, members of The Links, Incorporated contribute over one million (1,000,000) service hours annually and have donated one-million-dollar grants to six (6) organizations, including St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, and the UNCF; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas chapters of The Links, Incorporated are made up of women who continue to work hard to ensure that their communities are successful through friendship and service; and

WHEREAS, the Links Legislative Day is sponsored by the Little Rock, Pine Bluff, and Northwest Arkansas chapters of The Links, Incorporated; and

WHEREAS, the Little Rock chapter of The Links, Incorporated began in 1956, the Pine Bluff chapter began in 1969, and the Northwest Arkansas chapter began in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Little Rock, Pine Bluff, and Northwest Arkansas chapters of The Links, Incorporated are focused on making a significant and transformative impact in their respective communities through civic,

educational, and intercultural activities; and

WHEREAS, the projects of the Little Rock chapter of The Links, Incorporated include:

(1) A mentoring program at J.A. Fair K-8 Preparatory School;

(2) Health and wellness education and intervention programs focusing on chronic kidney disease and maternal childbirth mortality in the Black community; and

(3) Donating over two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) in scholarships to female African American high school seniors and two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) to the four (4) historically Black colleges and universities in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the projects of the Pine Bluff chapter of The Links, Incorporated include:

(1) Bullying prevention and intervention strategies;

(2) Educating students about the vast career choices beyond the United States with a goal of creating a future job pool of young minority students focused on careers in international business and foreign affairs; and

(3) Promoting health and wellness for youth through dental hygiene; and

WHEREAS, the projects of the Northwest Arkansas chapter of The Links, Incorporated include:

(1) Assisting the transition of young women who have aged out of foster care;

(2) Assessing the needs of abused children of color and then donating friendship dolls to support play therapy at a local child advocacy center; and

(3) Hosting an art workshop to educate children through grade six (6) on Black artists and works of art; and

WHEREAS, The Links, Incorporated has identified four (4) priorities for legislative advocacy:

(1) Health;

- (2) Economic stability;
- (3) Civil and voting rights; and
- (4) Criminal justice and public safety,

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the House of Representatives recognize Monday, February 3, 2025, as the Links Legislative Day at the State Capitol, and recognize The Links, Incorporated for its service work and contributions to its chapter communities and to the State of Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be provided by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to Little Rock Chapter President Annette Slater, Pine Bluff Chapter President Carla Martin, J.D., and Northwest Arkansas Chapter President Phyllis Harris.