

By: Representative Springer

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO HONOR ANNIE MABLE MCDANIEL ABRAMS FOR HER SERVICE
TO HER COMMUNITY AND THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

Subtitle

TO HONOR ANNIE MABLE MCDANIEL ABRAMS FOR
HER SERVICE TO HER COMMUNITY AND THE
STATE OF ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, Annie Mable McDaniel Abrams is a retired educator and a political, social, civic, and community activist in Little Rock; and

WHEREAS, Annie Mable McDaniel Abrams was born on September 25, 1931, in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, the eldest of four (4) siblings, and she was raised with help from her grandfather after her father died when she was eighteen (18) months old; and

WHEREAS, Annie Mable McDaniel Abrams attended the segregated Peake School in Arkadelphia until age thirteen (13), whereupon her mother sent her to Little Rock to pursue a better education; and

WHEREAS, Annie Mable McDaniel Abrams graduated from Dunbar High School in 1950 and enrolled in Dunbar Junior College to major in teacher education, graduating with full licensure in 1952 and a scholarship offer to the prestigious Brandeis University in Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, because her financial circumstances prevented her from attending Brandeis University, Annie Mable McDaniel Abrams began teaching at



the segregated three-room elementary school in Marianna, Arkansas, before accepting a position in 1956 with the Arkansas Teachers Association, which supported educational equality for Black teachers and students in Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Annie Mable McDaniel Abrams married Orville Abrams at this time, and they eventually had four (4) children; and

WHEREAS, Annie Mable McDaniel Abrams later enrolled at Philander Smith College, graduating with a bachelor of arts in special education; and

WHEREAS, Annie Mable McDaniel Abrams actively engaged with community issues upon her return to Little Rock in 1956, assisting with the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School and closely associating with Daisy Gatson Bates in that effort, joining Democratic women to advocate for the gubernatorial election campaign of Republican hopeful Winthrop Rockefeller, and in 1978 traveling to Geneva, Switzerland, as a delegate of the Young Women's Christian Association representing North America at a United Nations conference; and

WHEREAS, Annie Mable McDaniel Abrams was instrumental in campaigns to rename Little Rock streets in honor of Daisy Gatson Bates and Mayor Charles Bussey, and, most notably, she led the campaign that resulted in the 1992 renaming of High Street in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and in the institution of Little Rock's first parade in honor of Dr. King; and

WHEREAS, Annie Mable McDaniel Abrams was a member of the Little Rock Central High School Integration 50th Anniversary Commission, was commissioner for the Fair Housing Commission, and served as treasurer of the Arkansas Democratic Black Caucus, and she currently serves as honorary co-chair of the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr., Commission; and

WHEREAS, Annie Mable McDaniel Abrams has been the recipient of numerous honors and has been recognized throughout the State of Arkansas for her continued community service and activism; and

WHEREAS, Annie Mable McDaniel Abrams was awarded an honorary doctorate and the Community Service Award from her alma mater, Philander Smith College and has received the Brooks Hays Award for Civil Rights Champions and the Making of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Award by the national Martin Luther King, Jr., Commission given by Coretta Scott King; and

WHEREAS, Annie Mable McDaniel Abrams was a 2010 inductee into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame, and, in 2020, Ouachita Baptist University established the Annie Abrams Living Legacy Award, a scholarship for African American students; and

WHEREAS, Annie Mable McDaniel Abrams continues to reside in her family home in Little Rock and remains active politically and in her community, and her endorsement is highly sought after in local politics; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the City of Little Rock declared the ninetieth birthday of Annie Mable McDaniel Abrams to be "Annie Day", and on February 1, 2022, the television program "Good Morning America" featured Abrams as part of its Black History Month programming,

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 honor Annie Mable McDaniel Abrams for her service to her community and the State of Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be presented to Annie Mable McDaniel Abrams by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.