

By: Senators J. Scott, F. Love, R. Murdock, C. Tucker, G. Leding
By: Representatives J. Richardson, F. Allen, K. Ferguson, T. Shephard, Ennett, McGruder, Barnett,
Barnes, Steele, Springer, McCullough, A. Collins, D. Garner, Gonzales Worthen

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE FORMER REPRESENTATIVE AND SENATOR JOYCE
ELLIOTT DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH FOR HER SERVICE TO
THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE FORMER REPRESENTATIVE AND
SENATOR JOYCE ELLIOTT DURING BLACK
HISTORY MONTH FOR HER SERVICE TO THE
STATE OF ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, Joyce Elliott was born on March 20, 1951, in rural Willisville as one of six (6) children raised by their mother and grandparents; and

WHEREAS, Joyce Elliott attended all-Black Oak Grove Rosenwald School where she was a top student, and then she took advantage of the opportunity to attend the recently desegregated Willisville High School, beginning attendance there in 1966 when she was in grade ten (10); and

WHEREAS, Black students were given the option at the end of the 1966-67 school year to return to segregated schools, but Joyce Elliott refused and became the second Black person to graduate from Willisville High School following her older sister, who was the first; and

WHEREAS, Joyce Elliott then enrolled at what is now Southern Arkansas University in Magnolia and graduated in 1973 with a bachelor's degree in English and Speech before earning her master's degree in English from



Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia in 1981; and

WHEREAS, following receipt of her master's degree, Joyce Elliott became a teacher and eventually taught high school in El Dorado and later at Little Rock's Joe T. Robinson High School, and she also served two (2) terms as president of the Pulaski County chapter of the National Education Association; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, Joyce Elliott was elected to the office of State Representative for District 56 after campaigning on the issues of childcare, education, and health care, winning with eighty-three percent (83%) of the vote, and continued her work as a teacher until 2003 while holding office as a member of the House of Representatives, of which she remained a member until 2006; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, Joyce Elliott was elected to the Senate and represented District 33 and then District 31 until January 2023, with education dominating her agenda throughout her time as a senator; and

WHEREAS, Joyce Elliott worked closely with then-Senator Shane Broadway to produce education programs effecting equal and adequate funding in the wake of the 2002 holding in Lake View School District No. 25 v. Huckabee, and she also at times worked closely with then-Governor Michael Dale "Mike" Huckabee on education-related issues; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Joyce Elliott founded Get Loud Arkansas, a nonprofit focused on civic engagement, particularly in the realm of voting; and

WHEREAS, Joyce Elliott has received numerous honors and awards, including the Founder's Award from the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame, the Advocacy Award from the Arkansas Public Service Association, the Legislative Friend of Children Award from Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, the Pillar Award for Education from the Arkansas chapter of 100 Black Men, and the Distinguished Legislator Award from the Arkansas Municipal League,

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the Senate and the House of Representatives recognize former Representative and Senator Joyce Elliott during Black History Month for her service to the State of Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be presented to Joyce Elliott by the Secretary of the Senate.