

1 State of Arkansas
2 90th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2015

SR 21

4
5 By: Senator A. Clark

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7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

8 CELEBRATING THE REOPENING OF THE MID-AMERICA SCIENCE
9 MUSEUM IN HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS, AND RECOGNIZING ITS
10 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY.

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13 **Subtitle**

14 CELEBRATING THE REOPENING OF THE MID-
15 AMERICA SCIENCE MUSEUM IN HOT SPRINGS,
16 ARKANSAS, AND RECOGNIZING ITS
17 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY.

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20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE
21 OF ARKANSAS:

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23 WHEREAS, Mid-America Science Museum is located on Mid-America
24 Boulevard, off Arkansas Highway 227. The museum first opened on January 20,
25 1979. Then Governor Bill Clinton dedicated the museum in a grand opening
26 ceremony on April 22, 1979; and

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28 WHEREAS, the mission of the museum is to stimulate interest in science,
29 to promote public understanding of the sciences, and to encourage life-long
30 science education through interactive exhibits and programs; and

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32 WHEREAS, the museum has received several awards over the years
33 including the "Henry Award" from the Governor's Conference on Tourism in 1982
34 and the "Parent's Choice" award as the Best Museum for Families in 1995. In
35 2001, the Mid-America Science Museum was selected as a Smithsonian Affiliate,
36 becoming the ninetieth museum in the nation to receive this honor and the



1 first institution in Arkansas to have this prestigious recognition. The
2 museum also partners with NASA for its space education program; and

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4 WHEREAS, in August 2014, the museum closed to undergo its first
5 renovation and expansion since it first opened in 1979. The museum was
6 awarded a \$7.8 million grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation to
7 renovate the facility and install new exhibits in 2011. The museum also
8 received a major donation from the Oaklawn Foundation in 2013; and

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10 WHEREAS, the museum will re-open March 7, 2015, offering new features
11 like the Oaklawn Foundation Digital Dome Theater, the Bob Wheeler Science
12 Skywalk, the Inventors Workshop gallery, and many more exciting attractions;
13 and

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15 WHEREAS, the original Mid-America Science Museum was designed by museum
16 architect E. Verner Johnson and Associates of Boston, Massachusetts and
17 Stuck, Frier, Lane, Scott, Beisner of Little Rock and Jonesboro, Arkansas.
18 Renovations were carried out by Wittenberg, Delony & Davidson Architects of
19 Little Rock; and

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21 WHEREAS, the Mid-America Science Museum is deserving of public
22 recognition and appreciation for its continued commitment to spark a lifelong
23 interest in science in the Arkansas community,

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25 NOW THEREFORE,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE
27 OF ARKANSAS:

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29 THAT the Senate of the Ninetieth General Assembly celebrates the re-
30 opening of the Mid-America Science Museum in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and
31 recognizes its contributions to the community.

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon its adoption a copy of this resolution be
34 presented by the Secretary of the Senate to Diane LaFollette, Executive
35 Director of the museum, Lance B. Garner, Chairman of the museum's Board of
36 Trustees, and Brian Gehrki, Vice Chairman of the museum's Board of Trustees.