



SR0557

LRB099 12414 MST 35688 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, On May 17, 1954, the United States Supreme Court
3 issued the landmark ruling in Brown v. Board of Education of
4 Topeka, Kansas, declaring unconstitutional any and all laws
5 that established or maintained segregation in schools; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1957, in response to the ruling, 9
7 African-American students, working with the National
8 Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP),
9 registered to attend Little Rock Central High School; dubbed
10 "The Little Rock Nine", they were denied entry to the school by
11 Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus, who ordered the Arkansas
12 National Guard deployed to deny the students access; and

13 WHEREAS, The Little Rock Nine were escorted into the school
14 by the United States Army's 101st Airborne Division as ordered
15 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower; the students encountered
16 abuse and persecution at the hands of whites, but, in the end,
17 enforced their civil rights by taking a stand for justice and
18 equality; they have gone on to live lives dedicated to the
19 proposition that racist ideology will not dictate educational
20 policies and practices now or in the future; and

21 WHEREAS, The Little Rock Nine are: Dr. Melba Pattillo
22 Beals, Elizabeth Eckford, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Ernest Green,

1 Carlotta Walls LaNier, Dr. Terrence J. Roberts, Jefferson
2 Thomas, Minnijean Brown Trickey, and Thelma Mothershed Wair;
3 together they support The Little Rock Nine Foundation, which
4 advances the ideals of justice and equal opportunity for all;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, The many honors received by The Little Rock Nine
7 include the NAACP's Spingarn Medal (1957), The Congressional
8 Gold Medal of Honor (1999), a commemorative United States
9 postage stamp (2005), and a commemorative 50th anniversary
10 one-dollar coin issued by the U.S. Mint (2007); and

11 WHEREAS, The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
12 Foundation has named The Little Rock Nine as its 2015 Lincoln
13 Leadership Prize Recipients; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL
15 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we recognize The Little
16 Rock Nine and the dedication they have shown to the advancement
17 of civil rights; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we declare May 19, 2015 as The Little Rock
19 Nine Day; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
21 presented to The Little Rock Nine as an expression of our

1 esteem and respect.