

1 State of Arkansas
2 92nd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2019
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1950

5 By: Representatives Glover, V. Flowers, Love, F. Allen, Scott, Burch
6 By: Senators E. Cheatham, Elliott, L. Chesterfield
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH JOHN H. JOHNSON DAY AS A MEMORIAL
10 DAY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
11

Subtitle

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14 TO ESTABLISH JOHN H. JOHNSON DAY AS A
15 MEMORIAL DAY.
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings and intent.

21 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

22 (1) John H. Johnson is widely regarded as the most influential
23 African-American publisher in United States history;

24 (2) Mr. Johnson was born in Arkansas City, Arkansas, where he
25 lived until he was in the eighth grade;

26 (3) After moving to Chicago to attend high school and college,
27 Mr. Johnson began his publishing career;

28 (4) In 1945, Mr. Johnson launched Ebony which has remained a
29 widely circulated African-American magazine in the world every year since its
30 founding;

31 (5) Mr. Johnson's publishing career expanded with the creation
32 of Jet, the world's largest African-American newsweekly magazine, and he
33 later expanded his business interests to book publishing, television
34 production, and other business enterprises;

35 (6) In addition to his business and publishing careers, Mr.
36 Johnson was highly involved in community service at both the local and the



1 national level; and

2 (7) Over the course of decades, Mr. Johnson served as a board
3 member or trustee for numerous business, philanthropic, and cultural
4 organizations, and received numerous awards, including the Presidential Medal
5 of Freedom awarded in 1996 awarded by President Bill Clinton, and more than
6 thirty honorary doctoral degrees from institutions across the country.

7 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to recognize John H.
8 Johnson and his achievements and contributions to the state and the nation by
9 enacting a memorial day in his honor to be celebrated on November 1 each
10 year.

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12 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 1-5-106, concerning memorial days to be
13 commemorated, is amended to add an additional subdivision to read as follows:

14 (13) John H. Johnson Day – November 1.

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17 **APPROVED: 4/16/19**
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