

STATE OF ARKANSAS
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

- WHEREAS: United States Senator Hattie Ophelia Wyatt Caraway was born on February 1, 1878, near Bakersville, Tennessee, to a family of modest means. As a young girl, Hattie Wyatt spent her days on the family farm and working in her father's general store, unaware she would one day represent humble farmers like her parents in the United States Congress; and
- WHEREAS: Unlike many young women of the time period, Hattie Wyatt, driven by her curious nature, furthered her education by attending college and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Dickson Normal College in 1896. During her time at Dickson, Hattie Wyatt met Thaddeus Horatius Caraway. The two were married in 1902, and moved to Jonesboro, Arkansas, to begin their lives together; and
- WHEREAS: After a successful legal career, Thaddeus Caraway was elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1912, and he served in the House until 1921, when he was elected to the United States Senate. While her husband was considering World War I policies, the 19th Amendment, and relief during the beginnings of the Great Depression, Hattie Caraway maintained their home and cared for their three sons; and
- WHEREAS: The turn of the 20th century was a time of tumultuous change across the globe, and a catastrophic change came to the Caraway family. On November 6, 1931, Senator Thaddeus Caraway died suddenly, leaving behind a grieving family and an empty Senate seat; and
- WHEREAS: Arkansas Governor Harvey Parnell appointed Hattie Caraway to complete her husband's term in his honor, and she was elected in a special election in 1932, making her the first woman elected to the United States Senate. Later that year, she also became the first woman to preside over the Senate, and it was during this symbolic moment that she chose to announce her intention to run for re-election; and
- WHEREAS: To the surprise of many, Senator Hattie Caraway was re-elected to the United States Senate after defeating six male candidates, including former Governor Parnell; and
- WHEREAS: Senator Hattie Caraway served a total of 14 years as a United States Senator, where she represented the people of Arkansas with integrity and compassion. A woman of many firsts, Senator Hattie Caraway was also the first woman to chair a Senate Committee, a role she held for eleven years as Chair of the Enrolled Bills Committee; and
- WHEREAS: Mindful of her own upbringing, Senator Hattie Caraway was known for being a woman of few, thoughtful words on the Senate floor, not out of timidity, but to save taxpayers' money on the printing of the speeches in the *Congressional Record*. She was an independent and ambitious woman, who demonstrated great perseverance and bravery in pursuit of improving the lives of her fellow Arkansans; and
- WHEREAS: After her time in the Senate, Senator Hattie Caraway continued her career in public service on the United States Employees' Compensation Commission and later, on the Employees' Compensation Appeals Board.
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Senator Hattie Caraway passed away on December 21, 1950, and was buried with her husband, Thaddeus, in Jonesboro, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS: Through her time in the United States Senate, Senator Hattie Caraway illustrated the importance of women serving in political office on the national level, and her career encouraged many young women to consider roles in public service. Since Senator Hattie Caraway, 57 women have served in the United States Senate, 26 of which are currently in office;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim December 19th, 2020, as

SENATOR HATTIE W. CARAWAY DAY IN ARKANSAS

across the State, and I encourage my fellow citizens to join me in recognizing the life and legacy of this extraordinary woman and her service to the State of Arkansas.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 24th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2020.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor