

**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 her time, 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 U.S. Senate. While her husband was considering World War I policies, the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, and economic relief during the beginnings of the Great Depression, Hattie Caraway cared for the home and their three sons; and

WHEREAS: The turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century was a time of tumultuous change across the globe, and a similar 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 reelection; and

WHEREAS: To the surprise of many, Senator Hattie Caraway was reelected to the U.S. 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 U.S. Employees' Compensation Commission and later, on the Employees' Compensation Appeals Board. 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 U.S. 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, 58 women have served in the U.S. Senate, 24 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 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 23<sup>rd</sup> day of June, in the year of our Lord 2021.

  
Asa Hutchinson, Governor



Attest:

  
John Thurston, Secretary of State