

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

HR 1039

4
5 By: Representative Broadaway

6
7 **HOUSE RESOLUTION**

8 TO RECOGNIZE THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1930
9 METEORITE IMPACT IN PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS.

10
11
12 **Subtitle**

13 TO RECOGNIZE THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
14 1930 METEORITE IMPACT IN PARAGOULD,
15 ARKANSAS.

16
17
18 WHEREAS, this year marks the 85th anniversary of the meteorite impact
19 in Paragould, Arkansas, on February 17, 1930; and

20
21 WHEREAS, the fireball of the meteor's entry into Earth's atmosphere was
22 seen throughout the central United States in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and
23 Kansas, as livestock stampeded and nearly everyone in Paragould awoke from
24 the sound of three sonic booms at 4:08 AM; and

25
26 WHEREAS, the largest of the meteorite's pieces weighed more than 800
27 pounds, the second-largest of the meteorite's pieces weighed more than 70
28 pounds, and while a third sonic boom was heard that morning, a third rock was
29 never found; and

30
31 WHEREAS, what is now known as the Paragould Meteorite was, at that
32 time, the largest meteorite to ever have been seen falling and then recovered
33 and the largest stony meteoroid in the world; and

34
35 WHEREAS, five men and a team of horses spent three hours removing the
36 largest meteorite from its nine-foot hole on a farm belonging to Joe H.



1 Fletcher; and

2

3 WHEREAS, Harvey H. Nininger, an aspiring meteorite collector and
4 professor from McPherson, Kansas, bought the larger stone from Mr. Fletcher
5 and later sold it to Stanley Field, the president of the Field Museum of
6 Natural History in Chicago, Illinois, and then Mr. Field donated it to the
7 museum; and

8

9 WHEREAS, the money from the sale enabled Mr. Nininger to eventually
10 become the most successful meteorite hunter of the century; and

11

12 WHEREAS, the Paragould meteorites are a rare type of LL5 Chondrite,
13 and the largest portion of the meteorite is the fourth-largest stony
14 meteorite in the world and the third-largest intact specimen; and

15

16 WHEREAS, in 1988, the large meteorite was moved to the University of
17 Arkansas Library where it was displayed on permanent loan and then in 2008,
18 it was moved to be displayed at the University of Arkansas Center for Space
19 and Planetary Science at the Old Museum Building in Fayetteville, Arkansas;
20 and

21

22 WHEREAS, parts of the meteorite are in collections of researchers
23 worldwide, such as the Max Planck Institute in Germany, the Smithsonian
24 Institution, Harvard University, the National Museum in Washington D.C., and
25 the American Museum of Natural History in New York,

26

27 NOW THEREFORE,

28 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL
29 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

30

31 THAT the House of Representatives of the Ninetieth General Assembly
32 recognize the 85th anniversary of the meteorite impact in Paragould,
33 Arkansas.

34

35

36