SJR8

UKTTDDX-2

By Senators Elliott, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley, Bell, Butler, Carnley, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman, Figures, Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher, Hovey, Jones, Kelley, Kitchens, Livingston, Melson, Orr, Price, Reed, Roberts, Sessions, Shelnutt, Singleton, Smitherman, Stewart, Stutts, Waggoner, Weaver, Williams

RFD: RULES

First Read: 05-Feb-25

Enrolled, An Act,

SJR___ CELEBRATING AND REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF FRED NALL HOLLIS.

WHEREAS, it is with heavy hearts that we recognize the passing of Fred Nall Hollis, who departed this world on September 14, 2024, at the age of 76, leaving behind an internationally adored collection of surrealist artwork that has inspired and awed admirers around the globe; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hollis, known the world over as Nall, was born in the Wiregrass town of Troy, Alabama, on April 21, 1948, the only son of Joe Frost Hollis and Mary Winfred Nall Hollis; from an early age, Nall demonstrated an unusual talent in the arts and seemed destined to a creative calling; and

WHEREAS, Nall graduated from The University of Alabama in 1970 with a degree in fine arts and headed for New York City; after a short time, he became convinced that Europe would give him the exposure he needed to move forward, and in 1971, he was accepted into the famous École des Beaux-Arts in Paris, France, from which he graduated first in his class; he then launched into what would become the years that molded and shaped his creative vision; and

WHEREAS, during his years in Europe, Nall was under the tutelage of surrealist painter Salvador Dali, whom he claimed validated his audacity, formed a close friendship

with African American writer James Baldwin, and fostered relationships with important patrons; he refined a style highly influenced by French artist Gustav-Adolph Mossa, and his extensive travels throughout the Middle East, North Africa, India, and Mexico in the mid-1970s gave him varied perspectives and experiences and shaped the direction of his paintings and drawings; and

WHEREAS, by the end of the 1970s, Nall had earned critical acclaim in Europe in large part because of two challenging and important works: *The Last Supper* and his 32-piece "Alice in Wonderland" series which brought attention to not only Nall's unique style but the emergence of an important new artist on the European cultural landscape; and

WHEREAS, as he gained access to significant centers of the art world and elite European social circles, he attracted more high-profile patrons, and related portraiture of celebrities became an important extension of his work; Nall's portrait work moved his notoriety in Europe to a much higher level; and

WHEREAS, Nall's success allowed him to purchase and renovate the twelfth-century former studio of Jean Dubuffet, founder of the Art Brut movement, in Vence, France, just northwest of Nice; this became Nall's home, studio, gallery, gathering spot for other artists, and an educational center for young interns; the compound came to be known as the Nall Art Association; and

WHEREAS, he began inviting numerous students and

artists from Alabama to his French studio to work, learn, and broaden their cultural awareness, a tie to his home state that continued to grow through the 1990s as Nall made more frequent trips to Alabama to strengthen ties with a broader range of Alabama artists; and

WHEREAS, Nall was inspired to create the exhibition *Alabama Art 2000* with help from the Alabama State Council on the Arts which opened at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts to critical acclaim and opened the door to cultural exchanges between Alabama and Europe; and

WHEREAS, Nall's fame both at home and abroad continued to grow when he was hired to design the sets and costumes for two productions of the world-renowned Puccini Opera Festival and create the design for two new tableware lines for Haviland China; and

WHEREAS, one of the more ambitious and challenging projects of his career came in 2006 with the launch of the exhibition *Violata Pax*, or *Stations of the Cross of Humanity*, a collaboration with the Catholic Church, Pope Benedict XVI, and the Franciscan Order in Assisi; the multilocation, multimedia works included paintings, sculpture, weaving, and decorative furniture that all contributed to the theme of addressing the historical conflicts that plague humanity; the main site of the exhibition was the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, one of the most sacred sites in all of Europe; other components of the exhibition were also shown in Pietrasanta, Italy; Menton, France; the Principality of Monaco; and in Alabama

at the Mobile Museum of Art; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Nall returned to Alabama and established a permanent residence, studio, gallery, and warehouse in Fairhope; during his time in Baldwin County, Nall made friendships and connections with the communities across the county by donating his time and talent to inspire artists of all ages and abilities; and

WHEREAS, with thoughts of leaving his artistic legacy to an appropriate location in Alabama, he helped imagine into life the new International Arts Center at Troy University which includes the Nall Museum, dedicated on November 6, 2016, on the Troy campus; this tribute to Fred Nall Hollis is open to the public and successfully captures the magnitude, significance, and excellence of a truly outstanding Alabama artist; and

WHEREAS, his friendly demeanor and genuine kindness endeared him to many, and Fred Nall Hollis leaves behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting memory to all who were privileged to have known such an amazing and unique man; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Fred Nall Hollis, and this resolution is offered by Representative Jennifer Fidler and Senator Chris Elliott in tribute to an extraordinary individual whose life exemplified dedication, integrity, and kindness, and we extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends as they grieve the loss of a truly remarkable man.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be appropriately presented to the family of Fred Nall Hollis as a token of our sympathy and a symbol of our deep respect for his memory.

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Representatives

SJR8
Senate 12-Feb-25
I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and passed the Senate.

Patrick Harris,
Secretary.

House of Representatives
Passed: 18-Feb-25

By: Senator Elliott