

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Members of the East Texas theater community were  
2 profoundly saddened by the passing of Sarah Frances McMullan on  
3 November 15, 2022, at the age of 89; and

4           WHEREAS, The daughter of Thelma and Milton McMullan, Sarah  
5 McMullan was born in Newton, Mississippi, on May 5, 1933; she made  
6 her first appearance on stage in a Christmas play at the age of  
7 five, and her career path was set; while still in high school, she  
8 began directing, and after studying theater at Mary Baldwin  
9 College, she went on to earn a bachelor's degree in the subject from  
10 the University of Mississippi; she founded the Hattiesburg Little  
11 Theatre and served as arts/entertainment editor of the *Hattiesburg*  
12 *American* before settling in Nacogdoches; and

13           WHEREAS, In 1971, Ms. McMullan launched a theater company in  
14 the parish hall of Christ Episcopal Church, where she had been  
15 teaching young children; the Lamp-Lite Theatre soon moved to the  
16 City Spirit Arts Center in a former warehouse, but the site was  
17 flood-prone; offered a land lease by the city, the troupe and its  
18 supporters helped disassemble the warehouse and rebuilt it at the  
19 present-day location; Ms. McMullan's five children, Frank, Amanda,  
20 Annabel, Melanie, and Paul, assisted in this project; and

21           WHEREAS, Ms. McMullan directed more than 320 productions for  
22 the Lamp-Lite Theatre, and her resourcefulness kept it flourishing  
23 for over a half century; gracious, kind, and frank, she served as a  
24 mentor to many, pushing veteran actors to do their best while

1 recognizing sparks of talent in the inexperienced and offering them  
2 opportunities to learn; at her urging, historian Bobby Johnson  
3 assembled interviews into plays, resulting in two Lamp-Lite debuts,  
4 *A Texas Tragedy* and *Voices of East Texas*, that earned recognition  
5 from the Theatre Network of Texas; she traveled to New York City  
6 regularly to scout new works and brought *On Golden Pond* and *Crimes*  
7 *of the Heart* to East Texas playgoers before they were adapted as  
8 movies; over the years, she acted in a number of productions and  
9 performed in summer stock at the Southern Playhouse; she was also a  
10 guest director for the Stephen F. Austin University Summer  
11 Repertory Theatre program and directed *Nacogdoches: Gateway to*  
12 *Texas* in the city's sesquicentennial celebration; and

13 WHEREAS, Through her vision, leadership, and love of the  
14 theater, Sarah McMullan contributed enormously to the vibrancy of  
15 the arts scene in Nacogdoches, and those she left behind will  
16 forever remember her with admiration and affection; now, therefore,  
17 be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas  
19 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Sarah Frances  
20 McMullan and extend sincere condolences to all who mourn her  
21 passing; and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
23 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of  
24 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Sarah  
25 McMullan.

Clardy

H.R. No. 660

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 660 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on March 30, 2023.

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Chief Clerk of the House