

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 494

WHEREAS, Residents of Houston are celebrating the 100th anniversary of one of the city's most popular performing arts venues, the Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park, on May 12, 2023; and

WHEREAS, The theatre is named in honor of Jesse Wright Miller, a mining engineer and cotton broker, who left property to the city for municipal purposes upon his death; the proceeds from the sale of the Miller estate were used to build a permanent bandstand in Hermann Park, initially called the Miller Memorial Theatre; on May 12, 1923, the first presentation at the venue, *Springtimes of Our Nation*, featured some 2,500 performers, and the theatre's inaugural production, *The Rose Maiden*, was led by the director of city bands on May 18; in the ensuing years, sports fans gathered at the venue to listen to radio broadcasts of the World Series and world championship boxing matches, and in 1941, the Houston Symphony played its first free concert there; and

WHEREAS, The city built a new theatre in 1968, and the award-winning structure opened on September 1 with a performance by the Houston Symphony; that same year marked the beginning of a 55-year history of annual musicals presented by the Theatre Under the Stars company; today, events at Miller range from performances by the Houston Grand Opera and the Houston Ballet to celebrations of Juneteenth and Cinco de Mayo; with the guidance of the Miller Theatre Advisory Board and Houston First Corporation and with funding from the City of Houston and the generous support of other sponsors, the Miller Outdoor Theatre

currently offers an eight-month season of free performances, and it attracts hundreds of thousands of attendees each year; and

WHEREAS, Over the past century, the Miller Outdoor Theatre has entertained countless audiences, showcased the talent of numerous performers, and greatly contributed to the cultural vitality of the community, and it is a pleasure to honor this beloved landmark on this important milestone; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 88th Legislature, hereby commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Miller Outdoor Theatre and extend to all those involved in its operation sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this Resolution be prepared for the theatre as an expression of high regard from the Texas Senate.

Whitmire

Alvarado
Bettencourt

Creighton
Huffman

Miles
West

Patrick, President of the Senate

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 1, 2023.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate