

By: Whitmire, et al.

S.R. No. 494

R E S O L U T I O N

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

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

17 WHEREAS, The city built a new theatre in 1968, and the
18 award-winning structure opened on September 1 with a performance by
19 the Houston Symphony; that same year marked the beginning of a
20 55-year history of annual musicals presented by the Theatre Under
21 the Stars company; today, events at Miller range from performances
22 by the Houston Grand Opera and the Houston Ballet to celebrations of
23 Juneteenth and Cinco de Mayo; with the guidance of the Miller
24 Theatre Advisory Board and Houston First Corporation and with

1 funding from the City of Houston and the generous support of other
2 sponsors, the Miller Outdoor Theatre currently offers an
3 eight-month season of free performances, and it attracts hundreds
4 of thousands of attendees each year; and

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

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

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
15 prepared for the theatre as an expression of high regard by the
16 Texas Senate.