

By: Jones

H.R. No. 1419

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Ballet Lubbock is celebrating its 40th anniversary
2 throughout the 2009-2010 season, which commences on May 5, 2009;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, The only pre-professional performing company on the
5 South Plains, Ballet Lubbock was founded in 1969 by Suzanne Aker,
6 who served as its first artistic director and choreographer; Ms.
7 Aker earned teacher certification from the Royal Academy of Dance
8 in London and taught professionally for more than a half-century
9 before her retirement in 2000; Yvonne Racz, one of her former
10 students, has served as artistic director since 1997; and

11 WHEREAS, A graduate of the University of Utah, Ms. Racz has
12 performed with a number of professional dance companies, as well as
13 in Cirque du Soleil's *Mystere*, and has extensive experience as a
14 teacher and choreographer; she currently serves as an adjunct
15 professor of dance at Texas Tech University; the recipient of a
16 Dynamic Force/ACE Award from the Lubbock Arts Alliance, she was
17 recognized in 2008 by *The Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* as one of the
18 100 most influential people in the city; under her able leadership,
19 the Ballet Lubbock School has grown tenfold; and

20 WHEREAS, Ballet Lubbock teaches nearly 200 students
21 annually, and over the years, more than 50 alumni have gone on to
22 professional performing, choreography, and teaching careers in the
23 United States and abroad; in addition to nurturing love and respect
24 for the art of classical dance, the school's classes emphasize

1 strong discipline and correct technique, and students are
2 consistently accepted into top-ranked summer ballet programs and
3 intensives across the country; and

4 WHEREAS, Each year, Ballet Lubbock presents holiday
5 performances of *The Nutcracker* and a spring ballet such as *The*
6 *Firebird*, the 2009 selection; the organization fosters
7 appreciation of classical dance through both performance and
8 educational outreaches, offering classes at three community
9 centers and providing scholarships to talented dancers in need; it
10 has donated numerous tickets for performances to senior centers,
11 the Buckner Children's Home, and other social service agencies, and
12 since 2006, Ballet Lubbock has partnered with Lubbock Independent
13 School District to bring more than 2,000 children to free
14 performances of *The Nutcracker*; Ms. Racz also makes personal school
15 appearances to teach students basic ballet and to prepare them for
16 their first experience of Tchaikovsky's timeless musical tale; and

17 WHEREAS, Ballet Lubbock has introduced children to classical
18 dance over the past four decades and has increased access to a great
19 art form through its annual performances and generous outreaches;
20 as the company commences its 2009-2010 season, it is indeed fitting
21 to recognize its contributions to the West Texas arts scene; now,
22 therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
24 Legislature hereby congratulate all those associated with Ballet
25 Lubbock on the 40th anniversary of this noteworthy organization and
26 extend to them best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for the company as an expression of high regard by the
2 Texas House of Representatives.