

By: Meyer

H.R. No. 594

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Margaret McDermott of Dallas has been named the 2015  
2 Texas Medal of Arts honoree for Individual Arts Patron by the Texas  
3 Cultural Trust; and

4           WHEREAS, The Texas Medal of Arts program pays tribute to  
5 residents of the Lone Star State who have significantly benefited a  
6 variety of artistic disciplines in the state, either through  
7 personal achievement or through benevolent support; and

8           WHEREAS, Mrs. McDermott has been a philanthropist and a  
9 pillar of her community for more than six decades; she and her  
10 husband, Texas Instruments cofounder Eugene McDermott, established  
11 the Eugene McDermott Foundation in 1955, and through the years, the  
12 initiative has provided millions of dollars in behalf of worthwhile  
13 civic, cultural, and educational endeavors and has assisted such  
14 notable institutions as The University of Texas at Dallas, the UT  
15 Health Science Center, the University of Dallas, the Dallas Public  
16 Library System, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Dallas Museum of  
17 Art, and the Dallas County Community College District; and

18           WHEREAS, A champion of accessible, high-quality education,  
19 Mrs. McDermott has been an invaluable advocate of the DCCCD since  
20 its inception in 1965, serving the system as the inaugural vice  
21 chair of the board of trustees and playing an instrumental part in  
22 the planning of the district's seven colleges; moreover, she  
23 generously donated funds for the installation of the Founders'  
24 Foyer at the DCCCD headquarters and for the construction of William

1 P. Clements Jr. University Hospital at the UT Southwestern Medical  
2 Center; and

3 WHEREAS, Mrs. McDermott's tireless efforts have been  
4 recognized with a number of prestigious accolades, including the  
5 Carolyn Helman Lichtenberg Crest Award from the Pi Beta Phi  
6 Fraternity for Women and the Santa Rita Award, the highest honor  
7 bestowed by the UT Board of Regents; in addition, she has been named  
8 an honorary member of the American Institute of Architects, and the  
9 City of Dallas honored her with the dedication of the Margaret  
10 McDermott Bridge, for which she retained world-renowned Spanish  
11 architect Santiago Calatrava to design a beautiful addition to the  
12 city's landscape; and

13 WHEREAS, Margaret McDermott has long played a pivotal role in  
14 the arts community and in arts education in Texas, and her  
15 immeasurable contributions and selfless dedication have increased  
16 opportunities for others and enriched countless lives; now,  
17 therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas  
19 Legislature hereby congratulate Margaret McDermott on her  
20 selection as the 2015 Texas Medal of Arts honoree for Individual  
21 Arts Patron by the Texas Cultural Trust and extend to her sincere  
22 appreciation for her unwavering commitment to the arts; and, be it  
23 further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
25 prepared for Mrs. McDermott as an expression of high regard by the  
26 Texas House of Representatives.