

By: Garcia

H.R. No. 105

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The retirement of Marise McDermott as president and
2 CEO of the Witte Museum in San Antonio on December 31, 2023, offers
3 a fitting opportunity to reflect on her outstanding record of
4 achievement; and

5 WHEREAS, Ms. McDermott assumed leadership of the Witte
6 Museum in 2004 after serving as the inaugural director of its
7 Humanities Center for a decade; under her guidance, the museum has
8 experienced considerable growth in attendance, and its campus
9 underwent a \$100 million expansion that contributed to the
10 revitalization of the Broadway Corridor; she also oversaw the
11 renovation to the main building, which has since been the site of
12 numerous science, nature, and culture exhibits and events,
13 including the annual Fiesta coronation gown shows, a major survey
14 of Texas painting and sculpture, and the *Black Cowboys: An American*
15 *Story* exhibition; and

16 WHEREAS, Before joining the Witte Museum, Ms. McDermott
17 enjoyed a successful career in journalism, working for the
18 *San Angelo Standard-Times*, the *Austin American-Statesman*, and the
19 *San Antonio Light*; following her retirement, she will become the
20 Witte president emeritus, helping with the leadership transition as
21 well as the museum's 100th anniversary activities; and

22 WHEREAS, Highly respected by her peers, Ms. McDermott has
23 served as chair of the American Alliance of Museums Accreditation
24 Commission; she has further given of her time and talents through

1 leadership roles with the San Antonio Convention and Visitors
2 Bureau, the Luminaria Contemporary Arts Festival, and the Alamo
3 Plaza Advisory Committee; over the years, she has received numerous
4 accolades, including the Jack Nokes Outstanding Service Award from
5 the Texas Association of Museums, the Business Person of the Year
6 award from the *San Antonio Business Journal*, and the Texas Patriot
7 Award from the Daughters of the Republic of Texas; and

8 WHEREAS, Admired for her commitment to expanding access to
9 the cultural, natural, and historical heritage of Texas, Marise
10 McDermott has made significant contributions to advancing the
11 mission of the Witte Museum, and she may indeed reflect with pride
12 on a career well spent as she embarks on the next exciting chapter
13 of her life; now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
15 Legislature, 3rd Called Session, hereby congratulate Marise
16 McDermott on her retirement as president and CEO of the Witte Museum
17 and extend to her sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for Ms. McDermott as an expression of high regard by the
21 Texas House of Representatives.