

By: Gamez

H.R. No. 2096

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Camille Lightner Playhouse in Brownsville is
2 celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2023, and this occasion
3 provides a welcome opportunity to honor this South Texas treasure;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, The Camille Playhouse traces its roots to the fall
6 of 1963, when several English, speech, and drama teachers, along
7 with a few interested theater buffs, got together and started a
8 theater group called "The Brownsville Players"; they originally
9 performed in an old, vacant cotton sampling warehouse on Central
10 Avenue, and their first two productions were *Green Grow the Lilacs*
11 followed by *Thieves' Carnival*; and

12 WHEREAS, In the summer of 1964, the Sams Foundation
13 recognized the group's hard work and provided a grant for the
14 construction of the present-day theater; the City of Brownsville
15 donated the land in Dean Porter Park, and on January 31, 1965, the
16 Camille Lightner Playhouse was dedicated in memory of Camille Sams
17 Lightner, a talented performer with a love for theater who passed
18 away in 1962; the Sams Foundation provided another grant in 1974,
19 and shortly thereafter, a much-needed addition to the building was
20 constructed for storage, work, and rehearsal space; and

21 WHEREAS, Today, the Camille Playhouse is one of the oldest
22 theaters south of San Antonio, and except for the two years of
23 interruption during the COVID-19 pandemic, it has consistently
24 presented 60 seasons of stage productions; the theater offers

1 programs to people of all ages, both on the main stage and during
2 its Youth Summer Workshops; and

3 WHEREAS, For six decades, the Camille Lightner Playhouse has
4 provided entertainment, enlightenment, and education to its
5 audiences, and in so doing, it has helped build a strong sense of
6 community and made an invaluable contribution to the rich, cultural
7 fabric of Brownsville; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 88th Texas
9 Legislature hereby commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Camille
10 Lightner Playhouse and extend to all those associated with the
11 theater sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it
12 further

13 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
14 prepared for the theater as an expression of high regard by the
15 Texas House of Representatives.