

By: Garcia of Bexar

H.R. No. 532

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

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

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

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

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

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 89th Texas  
14 Legislature hereby congratulate Marise McDermott on her retirement  
15 as president and CEO of the Witte Museum and extend to her sincere  
16 best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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