

HJR70 ENROLLED



1 HJR70
2 9YZ1MMB-2
3 By Representatives Fidler, Holk-Jones, Crawford, Givens,
4 Simpson, Hammett, Ross
5 RFD: Rules
6 First Read: 18-Feb-25



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1 Enrolled, An Act,

2
3 CELEBRATING AND REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF FRED NALL HOLLIS.
4

5 WHEREAS, it is with heavy hearts that we recognize
6 the passing of Fred Nall Hollis, who departed this world on
7 September 14, 2024, at the age of 76, leaving behind an
8 internationally adored collection of surrealist artwork that
9 has inspired and awed admirers around the globe; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Hollis, known the world over as Nall,
11 was born in the Wiregrass town of Troy, Alabama, on April
12 21, 1948, the only son of Joe Frost Hollis and Mary Winfred
13 Nall Hollis; from an early age, Nall demonstrated an unusual
14 talent in the arts and seemed destined to a creative
15 calling; and

16 WHEREAS, Nall graduated from The University of
17 Alabama in 1970 with a degree in fine arts and headed for
18 New York City; after a short time, he became convinced that
19 Europe would give him the exposure he needed to move
20 forward, and in 1971, he was accepted into the famous École
21 des Beaux-Arts in Paris, France, from which he graduated
22 first in his class; he then launched into what would become
23 the years that molded and shaped his creative vision; and

24 WHEREAS, during his years in Europe, Nall was under
25 the tutelage of surrealist painter Salvador Dali, whom he
26 claimed validated his audacity, formed a close friendship
27 with African American writer James Baldwin, and fostered
28 relationships with important patrons; he refined a style



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29 highly influenced by French artist Gustav-Adolph Mossa, and
30 his extensive travels throughout the Middle East, North
31 Africa, India, and Mexico in the mid-1970s gave him varied
32 perspectives and experiences and shaped the direction of his
33 paintings and drawings; and

34 WHEREAS, by the end of the 1970s, Nall had earned
35 critical acclaim in Europe in large part because of two
36 challenging and important works: *The Last Supper* and his
37 32-piece "Alice in Wonderland" series which brought
38 attention to not only Nall's unique style but the emergence
39 of an important new artist on the European cultural
40 landscape; and

41 WHEREAS, as he gained access to significant centers
42 of the art world and elite European social circles, he
43 attracted more high-profile patrons, and related portraiture
44 of celebrities became an important extension of his work;
45 Nall's portrait work moved his notoriety in Europe to a much
46 higher level; and

47 WHEREAS, Nall's success allowed him to purchase and
48 renovate the twelfth-century former studio of Jean Dubuffet,
49 founder of the Art Brut movement, in Vence, France, just
50 northwest of Nice; this became Nall's home, studio, gallery,
51 gathering spot for other artists, and an educational center
52 for young interns; the compound came to be known as the Nall
53 Art Association; and

54 WHEREAS, he began inviting numerous students and
55 artists from Alabama to his French studio to work, learn,
56 and broaden their cultural awareness, a tie to his home



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57 state that continued to grow through the 1990s as Nall made
58 more frequent trips to Alabama to strengthen ties with a
59 broader range of Alabama artists; and

60 WHEREAS, Nall was inspired to create the exhibition
61 *Alabama Art 2000* with help from the Alabama State Council on
62 the Arts which opened at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts
63 to critical acclaim and opened the door to cultural
64 exchanges between Alabama and Europe; and

65 WHEREAS, Nall's fame both at home and abroad
66 continued to grow when he was hired to design the sets and
67 costumes for two productions of the world-renowned Puccini
68 Opera Festival and create the design for two new tableware
69 lines for Haviland China; and

70 WHEREAS, one of the more ambitious and challenging
71 projects of his career came in 2006 with the launch of the
72 exhibition *Violata Pax, or Stations of the Cross of*
73 *Humanity*, a collaboration with the Catholic Church, Pope
74 Benedict XVI, and the Franciscan Order in Assisi; the
75 multilocation, multimedia works included paintings,
76 sculpture, weaving, and decorative furniture that all
77 contributed to the theme of addressing the historical
78 conflicts that plague humanity; the main site of the
79 exhibition was the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, one of
80 the most sacred sites in all of Europe; other components of
81 the exhibition were also shown in Pietrasanta, Italy;
82 Menton, France; the Principality of Monaco; and in Alabama
83 at the Mobile Museum of Art; and

84 WHEREAS, in 2016, Nall returned to Alabama and



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85 established a permanent residence, studio, gallery, and
86 warehouse in Fairhope; during his time in Baldwin County,
87 Nall made friendships and connections with the communities
88 across the county by donating his time and talent to inspire
89 artists of all ages and abilities; and

90 WHEREAS, with thoughts of leaving his artistic legacy
91 to an appropriate location in Alabama, he helped imagine
92 into life the new International Arts Center at Troy
93 University which includes the Nall Museum, dedicated on
94 November 6, 2016, on the Troy campus; this tribute to Fred
95 Nall Hollis is open to the public and successfully captures
96 the magnitude, significance, and excellence of a truly
97 outstanding Alabama artist; and

98 WHEREAS, his friendly demeanor and genuine kindness
99 endeared him to many, and Fred Nall Hollis leaves behind a
100 legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will
101 remain as a comforting memory to all who were privileged to
102 have known such an amazing and unique man; now therefore,

103 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
104 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Fred
105 Nall Hollis, and this resolution is offered by
106 Representative Jennifer Fidler and Senator Chris Elliott in
107 tribute to an extraordinary individual whose life
108 exemplified dedication, integrity, and kindness, and we
109 extend our deepest condolences to his family and friends as
110 they grieve the loss of a truly remarkable man.

111 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be
112 appropriately presented to the family of Fred Nall Hollis as



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113 a token of our sympathy and a symbol of our deep respect for
114 his memory.



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Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives

I hereby certify that the within Act originated in
and was passed by the House 20-Feb-25.

John Treadwell
Clerk

Senate

04-Mar-25

Adopted