

# HJR70 INTRODUCED



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



1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

HJR\_\_\_ CELEBRATING AND REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF FRED NALL  
HOLLIS.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, during his years in Europe, Nall was under  
the tutelage of surrealist painter Salvador Dali, whom he  
claimed validated his audacity, formed a close friendship



## HJR70 INTRODUCED

29 with African American writer James Baldwin, and fostered  
30 relationships with important patrons; he refined a style  
31 highly influenced by French artist Gustav-Adolph Mossa, and  
32 his extensive travels throughout the Middle East, North  
33 Africa, India, and Mexico in the mid-1970s gave him varied  
34 perspectives and experiences and shaped the direction of his  
35 paintings and drawings; and

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

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

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

56 WHEREAS, he began inviting numerous students and



## HJR70 INTRODUCED

57 artists from Alabama to his French studio to work, learn,  
58 and broaden their cultural awareness, a tie to his home  
59 state that continued to grow through the 1990s as Nall made  
60 more frequent trips to Alabama to strengthen ties with a  
61 broader range of Alabama artists; and

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

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

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



## HJR70 INTRODUCED

85 at the Mobile Museum of Art; and

86 WHEREAS, in 2016, Nall returned to Alabama and  
87 established a permanent residence, studio, gallery, and  
88 warehouse in Fairhope; during his time in Baldwin County,  
89 Nall made friendships and connections with the communities  
90 across the county by donating his time and talent to inspire  
91 artists of all ages and abilities; and

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

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

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



## HJR70 INTRODUCED

113           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be  
114   appropriately presented to the family of Fred Nall Hollis as  
115   a token of our sympathy and a symbol of our deep respect for  
116   his memory.