

SJR8 INTRODUCED



1 SJR8

2 UKTTDDX-1

3 By Senators Elliott, Albritton, Allen, Barfoot, Beasley, Bell,

4 Butler, Carnley, Chambliss, Chesteen, Coleman, Figures,

5 Givhan, Gudger, Hatcher, Hovey, Jones, Kelley, Kitchens,

6 Livingston, Melson, Orr, Price, Roberts, Sessions, Shelnut,tt,

7 Singleton, Smitherman, Stewart, Stutts, Waggoner, Weaver,

8 Williams

9 RFD: RULES

10 First Read: 05-Feb-25



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SJR___ 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



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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



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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



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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.



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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.