

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1280

By Coley

A RESOLUTION to recognize the historic Orpheum Theatre in Memphis.

WHEREAS, it is the pleasure of the members of this General Assembly to recognize those legendary Tennessee landmarks that serve as bastions of culture and history; and

WHEREAS, since it first opened at the corner of Main and Beale streets in 1928, the Orpheum Theatre has dazzled patrons with its artisan millwork, gilding, original fixtures, Mighty Wurlitzer organ, and architectural beauty; and

WHEREAS, the Orpheum was one of the first buildings in Memphis placed on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the theatre has been the Mid-South home of touring Broadway productions since 1977; in addition to the Broadway Series, the Orpheum Theatre Group presents hundreds of performances across both of its stages each year, including a diverse array of concerts, comedians, dance companies, and other special events; and

WHEREAS, dedicated to serving the Memphis community, the theatre began a summer arts workshop in 1997; the inaugural group included forty students and marked the theatre's first effort to bring arts education to Mid-South youth; by 2011, education initiatives were thriving at the Orpheum, with programs for tens of thousands of students, teachers, and families each year. By 2014, the classes and camps had outgrown the Orpheum's limited space; and

WHEREAS, the following year, in 2015, the Halloran Centre for Performing Arts & Education introduced a new downtown space for performances, events, education, and outreach; totaling over 39,000 square feet, the new center provides ample space for the Orpheum Theatre Group's own community programs, which serve more than 50,000 students,

teachers, and families annually through summer camps, workshops, and teacher professional development; and

WHEREAS, as the Orpheum approaches her centennial, preservation efforts are underway to keep the landmark in her 1928 splendor, while the new Halloran Centre gleams with exciting opportunities for the future; and

WHEREAS, at the corner of Main and Beale, what started as a vaudeville palace has become much more than that—a vibrant cornerstone for the performing arts and a promise for the next generation of Memphians; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize the Orpheum Theatre of Memphis, its legacy as a Tennessee landmark, and its continued promotion of the arts in Memphis, extending our best wishes for continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.