

HOUSE RESOLUTION 7

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION recognizing Marlene and Spencer Hays for their bequest to the Musée d'Orsay in Paris.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly appreciate the invaluable and innumerable effects of supporting the arts, the proliferation of which serves as testament to an engaged and thriving society in which individuals seek to understand and to be understood; and

WHEREAS, particularly important to the preservation of art are those aficionados who discover and collect significant works, thereby enriching their own lives and ensuring that the legacies of virtuoso artists are not lost; and

WHEREAS, two such devoted individuals are Marlene and Spencer Hays, Nashvillians who have long been conscientious stewards of great works of art; the couple recently announced that they have bequeathed their vast and distinguished collection to the Musée d'Orsay in Paris; and

WHEREAS, the primary focus of the Hays Collection is work from the Nabis Movement, which took place in France from approximately 1890 until 1900 and is often characterized by strong color fields and a flatness of the picture that presages the abstraction of the twentieth century; Nabis artists such as Pierre Bonnard, Édouard Vuillard, and Maurice Denis feature significantly in the collection; and

WHEREAS, Marlene and Spencer Hays were drawn to Nabis art in part because of their abiding love of French art, culture, and people, but also due to the friendships of the artists responsible for the movement; many knew each other from childhood, and their works offer a window into their friendships and daily lives; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the Musée d'Orsay mounted an exhibition titled *A Passion for France: The Marlene and Spencer Hays Collection*, which united works that are divided between the Hayses' Nashville home and New York apartment; and

WHEREAS, on October 22 of 2016, French President François Hollande hosted a dinner for Marlene and Spencer Hays at the Elysée Palace, during which time President Hollande announced the couple's decision to bequeath their art collection in whole to the Musée d'Orsay; the museum plans to install this collection as a permanent display, a true sign of its importance and the diligence with which the couple has built it over the past forty years; and

WHEREAS, President Hollande also honored the Hayses by naming them Commandeurs of the French Legion d'Honneur, which was established in 1802 by Napoléon Bonaparte to recognize eminent accomplishments of service to France; and

WHEREAS, because of the Hayses' careful curation and their ultimate generosity in bequeathing their collection of Nabis artwork to one of the largest art museums in Europe, people the world over will have the opportunity to experience the art of the masters of this movement; and

WHEREAS, in a letter to family and friends, Marlene and Spencer Hays cited two quotations from Sir Richard Attenborough that embody the couple's guiding principles concerning art and art collecting; the first was "Art belongs to no one. Some of us are simply its temporary, fortunate, and delighted custodians," and, similarly, "Art is for everyone—and failure to include everyone diminishes us all"; and

WHEREAS, this noteworthy contribution stands to enrich the lives of many, and it is fitting that we recognize the Hayses for their provident and benevolent bequest; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we recognize and commend Marlene and Spencer Hays for their bequest to the Musée d'Orsay, expressing our sincerest gratitude and wishing them all the best in their future endeavors.

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