

By: Senators J. Key, Salmon, G. Baker, G. Jeffress, J. Jeffress

## **SENATE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED  
COMPOSER, CONDUCTOR, AND PROFESSOR DR. WILLIAM  
FRANCIS MCBETH.

### **Subtitle**

IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF INTERNATIONALLY  
ACCLAIMED COMPOSER, CONDUCTOR, AND  
PROFESSOR DR. WILLIAM FRANCIS MCBETH.

WHEREAS, Dr. William Francis McBeth of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, died on January 6, 2012, at the age of seventy-eight (78) years; and was born on March 9, 1933, in Ropesville, Texas, to Joseph Phinis McBeth and Lillie May Carpenter McBeth; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McBeth, who began playing trumpet in the second grade, earned degrees from Hardin-Simmons University and the University of Texas and also studied at the Eastman School of Music; served from 1954 until 1956 with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Band at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and the 98<sup>th</sup> Army Band at Fort Rucker, Alabama; was one of the most prolific composers of wind band music in the 20<sup>th</sup> century; was a past president of the American Bandmasters Association; and his "Double Pyramid Balance System" is a widely used pedagogical tool in the concert band world; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McBeth was a longtime professor of music at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas; served as Ouachita's composer-in-residence, Lena Goodwin Trimble Professor of Music, and Chair of the Department of Music Theory/Composition of the Division of Music; and also served as conductor of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra; and



WHEREAS, the most outstanding of his awards have been the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers Special Award, which he received annually for more than thirty (30) consecutive years; the Howard Hanson Prize of the Eastman School of Music for his "Third Symphony"; the American School Band Directors Association's Edwin Franko Goldman Award in 1983; Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia's American Man of Music in 1988; Kappa Kappa Psi's National Service to Music Award in 1989; the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic's Medal of Honor in 1993; and the John Philip Sousa Foundation's Sudler Medal of Honor in 2000; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Dr. McBeth was appointed Composer Laureate of the State of Arkansas by the Governor, the first Composer Laureate named in the United States; and as a trumpet and bass violin player, performed in England, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, and Scotland; and served as a conductor throughout Europe, as well as Australia, Canada, and Japan; and

WHEREAS, reflecting on his musical legacy, Dr. McBeth said that his fondest desire was for his fellow musicians, students, and music lovers everywhere to say of him, "I liked his music! That's your whole lifetime's work. You want it accepted more than you want yourself accepted," he explained. "The work is much more important – especially when you've spent your whole life just doing that."; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McBeth was universally adored by students, peers, colleagues, audiences, and friends; and "There is no way to measure how much impact Dr. McBeth has had on Ouachita's music program over the years," said Dr. Scott Holsclaw, Dean of Ouachita's School of Fine Arts. "It is amazing how many lives he touched both at Ouachita and throughout the world, including students, colleagues, and music professionals. He is truly a Ouachita and Arkansas treasure."; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Craig Hamilton, Lena Goodwin Trimble Professor of Music and Director of Bands at Ouachita, described Dr. McBeth as "... a wonderful colleague, mentor, and friend. Through his composition, conducting, and teaching, he impacted the lives of hundreds of thousands of people around the

world. His sharp wit and engaging smile endeared him to everyone he met. We are all better musicians, teachers, and people for having known Dr. Mac. His passing leaves a huge void.”; and

WHEREAS, Dr. McBeth is survived by his wife, Mary; sister, Laura Fay Thaxton; brother, Harold McBeth; daughter, Laura Murphy, and her husband, Todd; son, Matthew McBeth, and his wife, Susan; and three grandchildren, Kate, Joe, and Carolyn; and

WHEREAS, the Senate wishes to publicly recognize Dr. McBeth’s contributions,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the Senate recognizes Dr. William Francis McBeth’s commitment, hard work, dedication, and years of service, and commends him for his contributions as a composer, conductor, and professor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the individual members of the Senate hereby express sincere condolences to the family of Dr. McBeth, and upon adoption of this resolution, an appropriate copy shall be provided to the family of Dr. McBeth by the Secretary of the Senate.