

By: Representative Gramlich

HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

TO REMEMBER ARKANSAS ARTIST AND EDUCATOR STACY BATES
FOR HER TALENT AND KINDNESS, AND FOR THE INSPIRATION
AND GUIDANCE SHE PROVIDED TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.

Subtitle

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PROVIDED TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.

WHEREAS, Arkansas artist and educator Stacy (Beck) Bates, formerly of Fort Smith, passed away Wednesday, February 19, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Stacy Bates was born March 8, 1985, in Fort Smith, Arkansas, to David and Karen Beck; and

WHEREAS, Stacy Bates loved basketball from an early age, and in her role as point guard for the Greenwood Lady Bulldogs basketball team, she was annually among the scoring leaders in the nation, particularly in three-point shooting; and

WHEREAS, Stacy Bates also loved art from an early age, and graduated from the University of the Ozarks in 2007 with a degree in art and a minor in education, and she was named the university's outstanding student in art in 2007 and its artist of the month in September 2018; and

WHEREAS, Stacy Bates specialized in creating black-and-white, pen-and-



ink illustrations along with murals that combined her two (2) favorite styles, drawing and printmaking; and

WHEREAS, as of 2018, Stacy Bates had completed seven (7) murals in Arkansas and Oklahoma, her illustrations had been featured in three (3) books and one (1) fully illustrated children's book, and some of her work was on display at Gallery1988 in Los Angeles, California; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Stacy Bates joined author Kathy Watson to create "My City is a Fort", a picture book celebrating the two hundredth anniversary of Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Stacy Bates's vibrant artwork brought the city and its history to life for thousands of families and inspired children to explore, create, and serve; and

WHEREAS, Stacy Bates grew her personal business brand, Stacy Bee Art, and became highly in demand for mural commissions among other artistic endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Stacy Bates was an art educator with the Fort Smith Public Schools for seventeen (17) years, and her legacy will live on through the lives of her students; and

WHEREAS, friend and Woods Elementary Principal Sharla Whitson said of Stacy Bates, "Mrs. Bates brought creativity, joy, and inspiration into our classrooms, nurturing the artistic talent of countless students. She fostered a love for art through her teaching"; and

WHEREAS, friend and Woods Elementary School music teacher Patti Hill said of Stacy Bates, "She will be loved and remembered for her love of art, children, and her helpful heart. She didn't just do her job; she inspired us all. I've always heard when someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure. Stacy has always been a treasure and the memories of testing themes, musicals done together, art/music units will forever make me smile. She truly brought arts education to life in living color and touchable for our children"; and

WHEREAS, friend and Fort Smith Public Schools art educator Leah Stark said of Stacy Bates, "There are too few elements in this world to accurately depict Stacy and the character she exuded in every aspect of her life. She was the Alice that the Mad Hatter needed and likewise, was precisely what the world needed. Her life encompassed a sophistication in art and knowledge, a whimsical nature spurred on by humor, a boldness that accompanied her convictions and a pure character that was driven by her greatest desire: to see others succeed. Although her physical presence is no longer a luxury we have here on Earth, how fortunate we are to have been loved by her"; and

WHEREAS, Stacy Bates's husband, Justin Bates, said of Stacy Bates, "With Stacy, her work and her vision was just that: a look into her soul and spirit. The world she created through her work, as a professional solo artist and as a sculptor of the young minds in the Fort Smith Public School System, contained so much love for people, for humanity, for family, for animals, and for peace. She was the embodiment of the Golden Rule and a model for all of us to follow",

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives remember Arkansas artist and educator Stacy Bates for her talent and kindness, and for the inspiration and guidance she provided to future generations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be provided to the family of Stacy Bates by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.