

By: Senator C. Tucker

SENATE RESOLUTION

TO HONOR SCULPTOR KEVIN KRESSE FOR CREATING THE
SCULPTURE OF ARKANSAS MUSIC ICON JOHNNY CASH NOW ON
DISPLAY IN THE NATIONAL STATUARY HALL COLLECTION IN
THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL.

Subtitle

TO HONOR SCULPTOR KEVIN KRESSE FOR
CREATING THE SCULPTURE OF ARKANSAS MUSIC
ICON JOHNNY CASH NOW ON DISPLAY IN THE
NATIONAL STATUARY HALL COLLECTION IN THE
UNITED STATES CAPITOL.

WHEREAS, Kevin Kresse is a Little Rock native and full-time sculptor and painter who was awarded the commission to create the bronze statue of Johnny Cash that now resides in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the United States Capitol; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Kresse was born and raised in North Little Rock, attended Catholic High School for Boys and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and continues to live in central Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Kresse's sculpture of Johnny Cash is one (1) of two (2) sculptures that now represent Arkansas in the capital city of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Kresse was the tenth of eleven (11) children born to parents whom he remembers as excelling at making and fixing things by hand;



and

WHEREAS, Kevin Kresse drew and painted as a young man, but did not begin formal art study until college; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Kresse said that after a career in advertising, "Sculpture came back in my life when I started teaching drawing [and] painting at the Arkansas Arts Center. I sat in on figure sculpting classes, doing clay work . . . I went back to UALR and learned bronze casting with Michael Warrick. But honestly, both painting and sculpting, I learned in the studio through trial and error"; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Kresse has created busts of legendary Arkansas musicians Levon Helm and Al Green as well as the Breaking the Cycle sculpture at Riverfront Park in Little Rock and the Mother Earth fountain sculpture at North Little Rock's Argenta Art Park; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Kresse also paints, and has completed murals including the Dogtown Proud mural in the Argenta neighborhood of North Little Rock; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Kresse has exhibited his work around Arkansas as well as in Memphis, Tennessee, Atlanta, Georgia, New York City, New York, and Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Kresse has earned acclaim for his work, including receiving the Governor's Art Award for Individual Artist in 2015 and being selected in 2016 by the Mid-America Arts Alliance for a painting fellowship and as one (1) of only four (4) artists to represent the Alliance at the fiftieth anniversary of the National Endowment for the Arts; and

WHEREAS, Kevin Kresse said of being selected to create the statue of Johnny Cash, "As far as my career, this was the biggest stage so far. I really wanted to get Johnny right technically, but also get Johnny's qualities of humbleness and soulfulness into the piece as well . . . Sculpting Johnny Cash for the U.S. Capitol is such an incredible honor . . . I felt quite a bit of a responsibility to kind of represent Arkansas and say

there's world class art that's produced here"; and

WHEREAS, Johnny Cash's daughter Rosanne Cash said of Kevin Kresse's sculpture of her father, "I was not expecting to feel as moved as I was and to see how much truth and intensity is in this work. It's uncanny how he brought soul into this statue. It's startling and beautiful",

NOW THEREFORE,

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

THAT the Senate honor sculptor Kevin Kresse for creating the sculpture of Arkansas music icon Johnny Cash now on display in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the United States Capitol.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be presented to Kevin Kresse by the Secretary of the Senate.