

By: Representative Lundstrum

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO RECOGNIZE RANDALL CHRISTY FOR SAVING THE GREAT
PASSION PLAY IN ARKANSAS AND TO CELEBRATE THE
SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "NATIONAL WONDER IN THE
NATURAL STATE" CHRIST OF THE OZARKS STATUE.

Subtitle

TO RECOGNIZE RANDALL CHRISTY FOR SAVING
THE GREAT PASSION PLAY IN ARKANSAS AND
TO CELEBRATE THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE "NATIONAL WONDER IN THE NATURAL
STATE" CHRIST OF THE OZARKS STATUE.

WHEREAS, the Great Passion Play, the Christ of the Ozarks statue, the Bible Museum, the Sacred Arts Center, and the New Holy Land in Eureka Springs, Arkansas, are the Five Sacred Projects of the Elna M. Smith Foundation, created by Gerald L. K. Smith and Elna M. Smith in 1965; and

WHEREAS, the first performance of the Great Passion Play took place on July 14, 1968; and

WHEREAS, in November of 2012, the Elna M. Smith Foundation announced that it would close the Great Passion Play after forty-six (46) years of productions due to a lack of funds; and

WHEREAS, Randall Christy, the founder of The Gospel Station Network, sought to raise seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) in 2012 to ensure the future of the Great Passion Play, stating, "I believe the Lord has led us to



Eureka Springs because I don't believe God wants the Passion Play to close. I believe He wants the Passion Play to stay open and improve for future generations. God can do it through all of us and many others collectively.";
and

WHEREAS, Christy raised seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) in ten (10) days securing the 2013 season of the production; and

WHEREAS, more than eight million (8,000,000) people from around the world have attended the Great Passion Play, making it the outdoor play with the largest attendance in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Christy continues working for the improvement of the Great Passion Play, and is raising funds to build a replica of Ein Gedi, a baptismal that will be heated and used twelve (12) months of the year at the Great Passion Play; and

WHEREAS, overlooking the amphitheater where the Great Passion Play takes place, the Christ of the Ozarks statue stands seven (7) stories high and required three hundred forty (340) tons of concrete to create its foundation; and

WHEREAS, the Christ of the Ozarks statue is one of the most visited attractions in the Ozarks; and

WHEREAS, the Christ of the Ozarks statute was dedicated on June 25, 1966, and will celebrate its sixtieth anniversary this year,

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 recognize Randall Christy for his contributions that saved the Great Passion Play and celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the "National Wonder in the Natural State" Christ of the Ozarks statue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be presented to Randall Christy by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.