

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 271

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to recognize Pat Halloran on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of industry; and

WHEREAS, Pat Halloran, president and chief executive officer of the Memphis Development Foundation, is one such individual who will have dedicated his time and energies to the organization for thirty-five years at the time of his retirement on December 31, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Halloran was brought on by the Memphis Development Foundation in 1980 to serve as the general manager of The Orpheum Theatre, the grand dame of Memphis's downtown cityscape. Built in 1928 as a vaudeville theatre on the Orpheum circuit, The Orpheum had fallen into disrepair by the time Pat Halloran took the reins in 1980; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Halloran's careful, considered guidance, The Orpheum has been resurrected to its former glory, and has experienced its most successful era since it was constructed nearly a century ago; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Halloran was first tasked with raising the \$5.2 million needed to restore the historic theatre, a restoration that was completed in 1984, when The Orpheum once again opened its doors; and

WHEREAS, the theatre proved to be a tremendous hit with Memphians and earned rave reviews as a venue for Broadway shows and live concerts; and

WHEREAS, Pat Halloran's vision for the theatre resulted in a \$9 million building expansion in the 1990s. Mr. Halloran spearheaded the fundraising campaign, which funded the doubling of the size of the stage and backstage areas and the installation of state-of-the-art

lighting and sound equipment, changes that turned The Orpheum into a world-class performance facility; and

WHEREAS, a native of Nebraska, Pat Halloran earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Nebraska Omaha and a master's degree from the University of Miami, where he rendered sterling service as the assistant dean of men for four years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Halloran moved to Memphis to become the chief executive officer of the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity and its Foundation, serving in this capacity for eleven years. He also served on the Memphis City Council for four years and ran for the post of mayor of Memphis in 1980; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his thirty-five years as the head of The Orpheum, Pat Halloran has directed fundraising campaigns which have raised more than \$25 million for improvements to the theatre; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the work he has done on behalf of The Orpheum, Mr. Halloran has long been dedicated to serving his community, implementing a number of education programs, including a student matinee series, summer camps, master classes, and workshops, and donating more than \$150,000 in tickets each year to nonprofit organizations throughout the mid-South; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Halloran also ensured that future generations would be able to enjoy the magical environment of The Orpheum when he instituted a preservation fee built into the cost of the tickets. The fee helps cover the theatre's annual maintenance expenses, and remains The Orpheum's longest-standing key program of theatre preservation; and

WHEREAS, a valued contributor to his profession, Pat Halloran was a founding member and the president of the Independent Presenter's Network and served on the board of directors of The Broadway League, which named him "The Outstanding Broadway Executive" in 1999; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Halloran garnered three Tony Awards as a producer of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Spamalot*, and *Memphis*, was named The Governor's Arts Executive of the Year by Governor Bill Haslam in 2011, earned the Legends

Award from the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau in 2012, and garnered the Communicator of the Year award from the Public Relations Society of America in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Pat Halloran is also the author of *The Orpheum: Where Broadway Meets Beale*, which chronicles the history of The Orpheum; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Halloran has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend and congratulate Pat Halloran on the occasion of his retirement, applaud his service to the City of Memphis and the State of Tennessee, and extend our best wishes to him for his success in all 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.