

By: Representative Creekmore IV

To: Rules

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 8

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE EXCEPTIONALLY TALENTED  
2 WORLD-RENOWN FLORAL DESIGNER AND PAINTER MR. RALPH NULL,  
3 CONGRATULATING HIM ON HIS MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS A PROMINENT AND  
4 ESTEEMED FLORAL INDUSTRY LEADER AND EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTOR AND  
5 WISHING HIM MANY MORE YEARS OF CONTINUED SUCCESS.

6 WHEREAS, Mississippi native and nationally and  
7 internationally acclaimed floral designer Mr. Ralph Null, has  
8 graced the world with his remarkable floral designs for over five  
9 decades resulting in a portfolio as rich and impressive as his  
10 floral creations; and

11 WHEREAS, his floral masterpieces have graced White House  
12 State Dinners, presidential inaugurals, the windows of Sak's and  
13 Macy's, Neiman Marcus catalogues, as well as national and  
14 international publications, and his designs are so well recognized  
15 and admired that it has evolved into its own design genre  
16 nationally known as the "Naturalistic Organic Design"; and

17 WHEREAS, internationally, his floral exhibits have been  
18 staged in London, Oslo, Capetown, Sydney, and the Kabuki Stage in  
19 Tokyo; and



20 WHEREAS, in the United States, his displays have been admired  
21 at the Smithsonian Institute, the Virginia Museum of Fine Art, the  
22 Chrysler Museum, the Minneapolis Institute of Art, the New Orleans  
23 Museum of Art, the Walters Gallery Baltimore, Palace of Fine Arts  
24 in San Francisco, many of which have hosted his displays multiple  
25 times at the same venues; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Null's inspirational and naturalistic style  
27 incorporates the everyday organic materials of the woodlands,  
28 roadsides, landscapes and unusual items into his designs that draw  
29 the viewer in with warmth and familiarity; and

30 WHEREAS, he is not only a curator of floral design, he is a  
31 leader in the industry, whose talents have earned him many  
32 prominent positions, such as the Design Leader for the Victorian  
33 Floral Arts and Crafts at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington,  
34 D.C.; and

35 WHEREAS, his artistic gifts expand beyond floral design to  
36 authoring books, as he is also a celebrated author who has  
37 published "A Florist Guide to Successful Weddings", "Christmas  
38 Collections", "Spring Arrangements from the Southern Garden",  
39 "Summer Arrangements from the Southern Garden", and "Fall and  
40 Winter Arrangements from the Southern Garden"; and

41 WHEREAS, his love for painting was awakened in 1999, when a  
42 friend insisted he study with Judy Hanson while he was in a long  
43 cancer recovery, and since that time he has developed his



44 botanical painting style inspired by Ms. Hanson's natural loose  
45 style; and

46 WHEREAS, painting has been his refuge since February 2020  
47 when he used the brushstrokes and paint to escape the anxiety of  
48 the pandemic, and now as an avid traveler, he travels to far and  
49 distant lands with a brush full of vibrant paint and his mind; and

50 WHEREAS, born April 2, 1946, to Gladys Limerick Null and  
51 Willie Edward Null at their home in rural Lauderdale County,  
52 Mississippi, where he attended Lauderdale School and graduated as  
53 an Honor Student from Northeast Lauderdale High School in 1963;  
54 and

55 WHEREAS, after high school, he attended Mississippi State and  
56 entered the five year Cooperative Education Program with a major  
57 in Horticulture, and would alternate semesters of study and work  
58 while employed by Greenbrook Flowers of Jackson, Mississippi, for  
59 the full five years where he gained hands on experience designing  
60 flowers and appreciating how the colors, fragrances and various  
61 combinations fashioned together triggered different emotions; and

62 WHEREAS, after graduating from Mississippi State in 1968, he  
63 was offered a position as an instructor in the Department of  
64 Horticulture teaching floral design, where he became very involved  
65 with the Mississippi Florist Association and worked to develop a  
66 curriculum in Retail Florist Management which was implemented at  
67 the college within the Horticulture Department in the early 1970's



68 in cooperation with the University Florist, a retail operation on  
69 the campus; and

70 WHEREAS, his teaching portfolio was quite diverse as it  
71 incorporated Floral Design, Advanced Floral Design, Landscape  
72 Gardening Design, Retail Florist Management, Floriculture Seminar,  
73 Plant Material Identification Basic and Advanced, Plant  
74 Propagation, and Interior Plantscape Design and Maintenance; and

75 WHEREAS, he retired in 1992 as a full professor with  
76 Professor Emeritus status and left the university with invaluable  
77 relationships with many state, national, and international  
78 organizations within the floral design industry, becoming a legacy  
79 and an internationally recognized designer, presenter, and  
80 lecturer; and

81 WHEREAS, during his career he presented almost 2000 design  
82 lectures throughout the world, he was also a recognized floral  
83 judge and was involved with many state, national, and  
84 international competitions including the Teleflora International  
85 in Sweden and head judge for Teleflora International in Las Vegas;  
86 and

87 WHEREAS, following his retirement from Mississippi State  
88 University he pursued a successful consulting career working with  
89 many leading companies in the floral industry, including  
90 Teleflora, Mt. Eden Floral Company, AA Importing, Design Master,  
91 Smithers-Oasis, Kerry's Orchids, Florida Nursery Association and



the International Plant Exhibition; and many of his nursery and floral company exhibits received "Best of Show" Awards; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Null operated the company, Design Concepts, for 12 years that designed and installed interiorscape for hotels and casinos throughout the United States as well as for large scale events decor and design; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to professional recognitions and awards, he served as President of AIFD National and Southern Region National Treasurer, and chaired the National Symposium in Atlanta (1994); and

WHEREAS, he is a founding member of the AIFD Foundation, of which he served as chair for 12 years, was instrumental with establishing the Artist in Residence AIFD Program which first began at Mississippi State University; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, he was honored with the Award of Design Influence as only the second living American recipient and is the only recipient to have a student, Matt Wood, who also received this prestigious award in 2019; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Null has been a member of the Society of American Florists, was invited into the American Academy of Floriculture (AAF), is a member of the Professional Floral Commentators, International (PFC-I) where he received the Tommy Bright Award, and has received the Poetker Award for the "Enhancement of the Aesthetic" by the American Horticulture Society; and



117 WHEREAS, he has earned many other notable recognitions  
118 including, Alpha Zeta, Pi Alpha Xi; Gamma Sigma Delta; Lifetime  
119 Achievement Award; Mississippi Florists Association; the Golden  
120 Award by the Garden Clubs of Mississippi and approved speaker for  
121 the National Council of Garden Clubs and the Garden Clubs of  
122 America; and

123 WHEREAS, he is a man of deep faith, who made sure he shared  
124 his time, talents and treasures in service to God's kingdom, as he  
125 was active for many years with the First United Methodist Church  
126 where he served in numerous positions including flower guild,  
127 worship, administrative board, study group leader, Meditation  
128 Garden and Columbarium design, and most recently Trustee Chair;  
129 and

130 WHEREAS, his career has allowed him to travel and teach  
131 throughout the world and he still finds travel stimulating and  
132 fulfilling and finds cruise ships the ideal method of watching the  
133 world pass by with ease as he enjoys time with his partner of 53  
134 years, Fred Kinder; and

135 WHEREAS, as one who never wants to stop sharing, learning,  
136 serving, he is very involved with the Exchange Club (Past  
137 President), Rosensweg Art Center (Past President), Columbus  
138 Preservation Society (Past President), Town and Tower at  
139 Mississippi University for Women, and Camp Rising Sun, a summer  
140 camp for children with cancer; and



141 WHEREAS, when not traveling the world, you will find Mr. Null  
142 in his studio designing with paint on canvas, and proud to have  
143 completed more than 300 paintings since COVID-19; and

144 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Legislature to celebrate the  
145 wealth of world-renown talent in this state, like Mr. Ralph Null,  
146 who share their invaluable treasures with the world and bring  
147 great honor to our state and its institutions of higher learning:

148 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
149 OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN, That we  
150 do hereby commend the exceptionally talented, world-renown floral  
151 designer and painter Mr. Ralph Null, congratulate him on his many  
152 impressive accomplishments as a prominent and esteemed Floral  
153 Industry Leader and educational instructor with an unmatched  
154 creative career spanning five decades, and wish him many more years  
155 of continued success.

156 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
157 furnished to Mr. Ralph Null and to the members of the Capitol Press  
158 Corps.

