

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025

SR 49

4
5 By: Senator C. Tucker
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8 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

9 TO HONOR SCULPTOR KEVIN KRESSE FOR CREATING THE
10 SCULPTURE OF ARKANSAS MUSIC ICON JOHNNY CASH NOW ON
11 DISPLAY IN THE NATIONAL STATUARY HALL COLLECTION IN
12 THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL.
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15 **Subtitle**

16 TO HONOR SCULPTOR KEVIN KRESSE FOR
17 CREATING THE SCULPTURE OF ARKANSAS MUSIC
18 ICON JOHNNY CASH NOW ON DISPLAY IN THE
19 NATIONAL STATUARY HALL COLLECTION IN THE
20 UNITED STATES CAPITOL.
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22 WHEREAS, Kevin Kresse is a Little Rock native and full-time sculptor
23 and painter who was awarded the commission to create the bronze statue of
24 Johnny Cash that now resides in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the
25 United States Capitol; and
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27 WHEREAS, Kevin Kresse was born and raised in North Little Rock,
28 attended Catholic High School for Boys and the University of Arkansas at
29 Little Rock, and continues to live in central Arkansas; and
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31 WHEREAS, Kevin Kresse's sculpture of Johnny Cash is one (1) of two (2)
32 sculptures that now represent Arkansas in the capital city of the United
33 States; and
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35 WHEREAS, Kevin Kresse was the tenth of eleven (11) children born to
36 parents whom he remembers as excelling at making and fixing things by hand;



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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8 NOW THEREFORE,

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

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

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

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