

1 State of Arkansas  
2 88th General Assembly  
3 Fiscal Session, 2012

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5 By: Senators J. Key, Salmon, G. Baker, G. Jeffress, J. Jeffress

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7 **SENATE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

8 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED  
9 COMPOSER, CONDUCTOR, AND PROFESSOR DR. WILLIAM  
10 FRANCIS MCBETH.

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13 **Subtitle**

14 IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF INTERNATIONALLY  
15 ACCLAIMED COMPOSER, CONDUCTOR, AND  
16 PROFESSOR DR. WILLIAM FRANCIS MCBETH.

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18 WHEREAS, Dr. William Francis McBeth of Arkadelphia, Arkansas, died on  
19 January 6, 2012, at the age of seventy-eight (78) years; and was born on  
20 March 9, 1933, in Ropesville, Texas, to Joseph Phinis McBeth and Lillie May  
21 Carpenter McBeth; and

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23 WHEREAS, Dr. McBeth, who began playing trumpet in the second grade,  
24 earned degrees from Hardin-Simmons University and the University of Texas and  
25 also studied at the Eastman School of Music; served from 1954 until 1956 with  
26 the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Band at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and the 98<sup>th</sup> Army Band  
27 at Fort Rucker, Alabama; was one of the most prolific composers of wind band  
28 music in the 20<sup>th</sup> century; was a past president of the American Bandmasters  
29 Association; and his "Double Pyramid Balance System" is a widely used  
30 pedagogical tool in the concert band world; and

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32 WHEREAS, Dr. McBeth was a longtime professor of music at Ouachita  
33 Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas; served as Ouachita's composer-  
34 in-residence, Lena Goodwin Trimble Professor of Music, and Chair of the  
35 Department of Music Theory/Composition of the Division of Music; and also  
36 served as conductor of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra; and



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2           WHEREAS, the most outstanding of his awards have been the American  
3 Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers Special Award, which he received  
4 annually for more than thirty (30) consecutive years; the Howard Hanson Prize  
5 of the Eastman School of Music for his "Third Symphony"; the American School  
6 Band Directors Association's Edwin Franko Goldman Award in 1983; Phi Mu Alpha  
7 Sinfonia's American Man of Music in 1988; Kappa Kappa Psi's National Service  
8 to Music Award in 1989; the Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic's  
9 Medal of Honor in 1993; and the John Philip Sousa Foundation's Sudler Medal  
10 of Honor in 2000; and

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12           WHEREAS, in 1975, Dr. McBeth was appointed Composer Laureate of the  
13 State of Arkansas by the Governor, the first Composer Laureate named in the  
14 United States; and as a trumpet and bass violin player, performed in England,  
15 France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, and Scotland; and served as a conductor  
16 throughout Europe, as well as Australia, Canada, and Japan; and

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18           WHEREAS, reflecting on his musical legacy, Dr. McBeth said that his  
19 fondest desire was for his fellow musicians, students, and music lovers  
20 everywhere to say of him, "I liked his music! That's your whole lifetime's  
21 work. You want it accepted more than you want yourself accepted," he  
22 explained. "The work is much more important – especially when you've spent  
23 your whole life just doing that."; and

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25           WHEREAS, Dr. McBeth was universally adored by students, peers,  
26 colleagues, audiences, and friends; and "There is no way to measure how much  
27 impact Dr. McBeth has had on Ouachita's music program over the years," said  
28 Dr. Scott Holsclaw, Dean of Ouachita's School of Fine Arts. "It is amazing  
29 how many lives he touched both at Ouachita and throughout the world,  
30 including students, colleagues, and music professionals. He is truly a  
31 Ouachita and Arkansas treasure."; and

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33           WHEREAS, Dr. Craig Hamilton, Lena Goodwin Trimble Professor of Music  
34 and Director of Bands at Ouachita, described Dr. McBeth as "... a wonderful  
35 colleague, mentor, and friend. Through his composition, conducting, and  
36 teaching, he impacted the lives of hundreds of thousands of people around the

1 world. His sharp wit and engaging smile endeared him to everyone he met. We  
2 are all better musicians, teachers, and people for having known Dr. Mac. His  
3 passing leaves a huge void.”; and

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5 WHEREAS, Dr. McBeth is survived by his wife, Mary; sister, Laura Fay  
6 Thaxton; brother, Harold McBeth; daughter, Laura Murphy, and her husband,  
7 Todd; son, Matthew McBeth, and his wife, Susan; and three grandchildren,  
8 Kate, Joe, and Carolyn; and

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10 WHEREAS, the Senate wishes to publicly recognize Dr. McBeth’s  
11 contributions,

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13 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH GENERAL  
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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16 THAT the Senate recognizes Dr. William Francis McBeth’s commitment,  
17 hard work, dedication, and years of service, and commends him for his  
18 contributions as a composer, conductor, and professor.

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20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the individual members of the Senate hereby  
21 express sincere condolences to the family of Dr. McBeth, and upon adoption of  
22 this resolution, an appropriate copy shall be provided to the family of Dr.  
23 McBeth by the Secretary of the Senate.