

ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 378**

Introduced by Arch, 14.

WHEREAS, in 1913 a house was designed and built at 3316 Center Street in Omaha for David P. Abbott and his wife, Fannie; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Abbott was an inventor and magician and the home located in the historic Field Club neighborhood served as his laboratory and theater; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Abbott is the father of many classical tricks and illusions such as the floating ball, the talking tea kettle, and spirit paintings; and

WHEREAS, the Abbotts entertained guests in the parlor of the house, known as the House of Mystery, putting on magic shows that lasted late into the evening; and

WHEREAS, other renowned magicians of the time were guests of the House of Mystery, including Harry Houdini, Harry Kellar, and Howard Thurston; and

WHEREAS, in September 2024, Teller, of the famous illusionary duo Penn and Teller, purchased and donated the house to the non-profit Omaha Magical Society, with the agreement that the House of Mystery would be restored to a theater of the impossible and a place to gather for magicians and fans of the illusionary arts; and

WHEREAS, the Omaha Magical Society, with the help and generosity of local donors and volunteers, is working to bring the house back to its 1920s splendor; and

WHEREAS, the Abbott House of Mystery was featured in the January 2025 edition of Omaha Magazine and a June 2025 Nebraska Public Media article and was the subject of a monthly public service announcement on Fox 42; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the preservation of the Abbott house, the Omaha Magical Society's preservation initiative included assembling twelve hundred volumes into a magic research library housed at the University of Nebraska-

Omaha; and

WHEREAS, the Omaha Magical Society hosts monthly magic classes at the House of Mystery, including a class specifically for junior magicians; and

WHEREAS, the Omaha Magical Society, established in 1921, will maintain the Abbott House of Mystery for the purpose of "enjoying magic...with others...for others".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature commends the Omaha Magical Society for its preservation of a unique part of Nebraska's history and for keeping the magic alive.

2. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Omaha Magical Society.