

By: Burrows

H.R. No. 174

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Music fans around the state and nation mourn the
2 loss of the celebrated Texas singer and songwriter Mac Davis, who
3 died on September 29, 2020, at the age of 78; and

4 WHEREAS, A native of Lubbock, Morris Mac Davis was born on
5 January 21, 1942, to T. J. and Edith Davis, and he enjoyed the
6 companionship of two siblings, Linda and Kim; after graduating from
7 high school and joining his mother in Atlanta at the age of 16, he
8 started performing with a local band, the Zots; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1961, Mr. Davis went to work for the Vee-Jay
10 record company, and by 1966, he was a "plugger" for Liberty Records
11 in Hollywood, pitching other songwriters' material to recording
12 artists while also sneaking in demos of his own songs; soon he was
13 writing for such artists as Nancy Sinatra, Bobby Goldsboro, and
14 Kenny Rogers and the First Edition, and in 1968, Elvis Presley
15 performed Mr. Davis's song "A Little Less Conversation" in the 1968
16 film *Live a Little, Love a Little*; he went on to write several more
17 tracks for Presley, including the classic "In the Ghetto," which
18 has since been recorded by 170 artists, from Dolly Parton to Nick
19 Cave & the Bad Seeds; and

20 WHEREAS, Starting in the 1970s, Mr. Davis became a successful
21 singer in his own right, with hits such as "Baby, Don't Get Hooked
22 on Me," "Stop and Smell the Roses," "It's Hard to Be Humble," and
23 "Hooked on Music"; with his good looks and genial Texas charm, he
24 also enjoyed a career as an actor, appearing in such films as *North*

1 *Dallas Forty, Cheaper to Keep Her, and The Sting II*, as well as such
2 television series as *The Muppet Show, Rodney, and King of the Hill*;
3 in 1993, he played the title role in a Broadway musical, *The Will*
4 *Rogers Follies*; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Davis continued to work as a songwriter well
6 into his 70s; with Bruno Mars, he cowrote "Young Girls" for the
7 album *Unorthodox Jukebox*, and in 2014, he cowrote "Addicted to
8 You," a dance club hit for the Swedish performer Avicii; during his
9 solo music career, he charted 30 times on the Billboard Hot Country
10 Songs chart between 1970 and 1986, and in 1998, he received a star
11 on the Hollywood Walk of Fame; he was inducted into the Nashville
12 Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2000 and into the Songwriters Hall of
13 Fame in 2006; and

14 WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Davis benefited from the
15 love and support of Lise Gerard, his wife of 38 years, and he was the
16 proud father of three children, Noah, Cody, and Joel; and

17 WHEREAS, As a writer and performer, Mac Davis brought joy to
18 multitudes of people, and he leaves behind a legacy of memorable and
19 beautifully crafted songs that will continue to delight listeners
20 for generations to come; now, therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
22 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Mac Davis and extend
23 heartfelt sympathy to his family and many friends; and, be it
24 further

25 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
26 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
27 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Mac Davis.