

By: Springer

S.R. No. 73

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For a half century, singer and guitarist Joe Paul
2 Nichols distinguished himself as one of the Lone Star State's
3 premier country and gospel musicians; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of O. W. and Myrtle Nichols, Joe Paul
5 Nichols was born in Cundiff in 1941; he learned to play guitar at
6 age nine, and his first break in the music industry came when he was
7 hired to contribute to the weekly country show *Cowtown Hoedown*;
8 after graduating from Jacksboro High School in 1960, he was a
9 regular performer on the *Big D Jamboree* television program; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1970, Mr. Nichols formed his own band, The Five
11 Pennies, and the group gained acclaim with their blend of country,
12 western swing, and country gospel music; over the course of his
13 prolific career, he shared the stage with numerous country music
14 luminaries and recorded 26 albums and more than 300 songs; he scored
15 a number one hit on the country gospel charts with "Jesus is the
16 Same in California," and in 2006, his song "Eleven Eighteen Nadine
17 Lane" captured Song of the Year honors from the Academy of Western
18 Artists; among his numerous accolades, he was inducted into the
19 Texas International Music Association Hall of Fame, and the
20 International Country Gospel Music Association named its lifetime
21 achievement award in his honor; moreover, he served as the music
22 director at Cundiff Baptist Church for 48 years; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Nichols maintained a day job throughout his
24 musical career, working as a state inspector for the Texas

1 Department of Transportation for 34 years and serving as the county
2 commissioner in Jack County for a decade; he retired from music in
3 2008 and passed away on July 27, 2011, at the age of 69; and

4 WHEREAS, With his exceptional talent and dedication to his
5 craft, Joe Paul Nichols earned a special place in the hearts of
6 innumerable people, and his musical legacy will continue to
7 resonate for years to come; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 88th Texas Legislature
9 hereby commend Joe Paul Nichols for his contributions to country
10 and gospel music and pay tribute to the life and legacy of this
11 beloved Texas musician; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That when the Texas Senate adjourns this day, it do
13 so in honor of Joe Paul Nichols.