

By: Wise

H.R. No. 31

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Al and Essie Morris have had a positive influence in
2 the lives of their fellow Texans through their efforts in spreading
3 blues music across the Rio Grande Valley; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Morris began a remarkable music career in the
5 1950s when he moved to Los Angeles, California, and joined the
6 prestigious back-up band The People; they opened for music greats
7 such as James Brown, the Coasters, and Jerry Butler, and acquired a
8 devoted following that included famed television personality Ed
9 Sullivan; and

10 WHEREAS, After meeting Essie, now his wife of 20 years, in
11 Atlanta, Georgia, Mr. Morris realized he had found the ideal music
12 partner; over the years, they have traveled together across the
13 United States playing country and blues favorites for eager
14 listeners; and

15 WHEREAS, Seven years ago, this talented pair moved to the Rio
16 Grande Valley; turning heads with their formal attire as well as
17 their great music, Mr. and Mrs. Morris have entertained countless
18 South Texans while performing at music festivals in the area as well
19 as jam sessions at Johnny's BBQ in Pharr; and

20 WHEREAS, To provide residents better access to the joys of
21 music, Mr. and Mrs. Morris have designed a Photographic and
22 Enrichment Center for aspiring musicians; offering a variety of
23 music lessons and other extracurricular activities for children,
24 this project will undoubtedly have many lasting benefits for the

1 Rio Grande Valley community; and

2 WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Morris are talented entertainers and
3 positive role models who have contributed to the lives of others
4 through the magic of blues music, and this class act is most
5 deserving of special legislative recognition; now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
7 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby commend Al and Essie Morris
8 for sharing their knowledge and love of music with the Rio Grande
9 Valley community and extend to them best wishes for continued
10 success and happiness.