

By: Gallego

H.C.R. No. 102

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Robert Weston Smith, known to his many fans as
2 "Wolfman Jack," was a true giant in the field of radio, and his
3 passing in 1995 has not diminished his contributions to American
4 culture as a radio, film, and television personality; and

5 WHEREAS, A native of Brooklyn, this remarkable individual
6 burst onto the airwaves in the early 1960s as a disc jockey at
7 powerful radio station XERF in Ciudad Acuna; at that time the nation
8 was experiencing a period of great unrest, with the assassination
9 of President John F. Kennedy, the onset of the Vietnam War, and the
10 ongoing struggle for civil rights led by Dr. Martin Luther King,
11 Jr.; and

12 WHEREAS, Wolfman Jack's contributions during this turbulent
13 period went beyond the role of an entertainer; by promoting such
14 traditionally black music styles as the blues, rhythm and blues,
15 and soul, which quickly gained acceptance from his fan base, he
16 fostered the cause of racial and cultural diversity, becoming a
17 unifying force in a divisive political and social climate; and

18 WHEREAS, He went on to earn two platinum albums and three gold
19 records during his career and was an inductee of the Radio Hall of
20 Fame in 1996; from 1973 to 1981, his fame was so widespread that he
21 was named one of the top 10 most easily recognized television
22 celebrities in the country by the Advertising Council of America;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, This multitalented individual also had numerous

1 parts in feature films, including playing himself in an integral
2 role in the blockbuster hit *American Graffiti*, and in its sequel
3 *More American Graffiti*; in addition, he hosted the television
4 series *The Wolfman Jack Show* and made many other television
5 appearances throughout the years; and

6 WHEREAS, Many individuals and organizations are working to
7 create a fitting tribute for Mr. Smith in Del Rio by erecting a
8 statue of the famous deejay, and supporters of this worthy endeavor
9 include his widow, Lou Lamb Smith, sculptor Michael Maiden, and the
10 Wolfman Jack Memorial Foundation; and

11 WHEREAS, Truly the voice of rock and roll for an entire
12 generation of music lovers, Wolfman Jack made contributions to the
13 industry he loved that were as unique and memorable as the
14 gravel-voiced delivery of his radio persona, and it is appropriate
15 that his remarkable legacy be preserved into the 21st century; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the 78th Legislature of the State of Texas
18 hereby pay tribute to the myriad accomplishments of Robert "Wolfman
19 Jack" Smith and extend support to those who are working to ensure
20 his memory.