

By: Bohac

H.R. No. 614

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The passing of Julius Victor Tupa on October 5,
2 2002, brought great sadness to the many fans and friends as well as
3 to the family of the Houston legend; and

4 WHEREAS, Born July 22, 1931, in Moravia, Mr. Tupa developed
5 his musical talents at an early age, picking up his first guitar at
6 13; in 1950, he moved to Houston with a song in his heart and a
7 determination to share his enthusiasm for music with the masses;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, While studying as an electrical engineering student
10 at the University of Houston, Mr. Tupa formed a country band, but
11 later discovered that his true passion was the lively punch of
12 polka; in 1992, he cofounded the Sound Connection, the first
13 Slovenian-style polka band in the state; and

14 WHEREAS, This admired gentleman became a prominent figure in
15 Houston's polka scene, editing the *Texas Polka News*, founding and
16 directing the Texas Polka Music Association, and founding the Texas
17 chapter of the Polka Lovers Klub of America; he was the animated
18 host of the long-running Saturday morning *Polka Express* on KYND-AM,
19 one of the most popular shows on the station; and

20 WHEREAS, Mr. Tupa shared 48 wonderful years with his wife,
21 Marie, and their union was blessed with two daughters and four
22 grandchildren; and

23 WHEREAS, He proudly served in the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1956,
24 and the U.S. Air Force Reserve for the following five years; active

1 in numerous organizations, Mr. Tupa was a lifetime achievement
2 member of the American Legion Post 654 and VFW Post 8790 as well as a
3 member of the Knights of Columbus Council 4550, the Czech Heritage
4 Society, and the Slavic Benevolent Order of the State of Texas; and

5 WHEREAS, This beloved gentleman was a treasured artist who
6 enlivened and enchanted audiences with the spirited and
7 effervescent melodies of authentic Czech music and he will long be
8 remembered as a passionate promoter and preserver of Texas polka
9 music; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas
11 Legislature hereby honor the life of Julius Victor Tupa and extend
12 sincere sympathy to his family: to his wife, Marie Tupa; to his
13 daughters and sons-in-law, Gayle and Tom Boney and Tina and Erik
14 Stankus; to his grandchildren, Jason, Lindsay, Stephen, and
15 Kendall; to his mother, Julie Tupa; to his brother, Willie Tupa; and
16 to his many cherished friends; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House
19 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Julius
20 Victor Tupa.