

By: Wilson

H.R. No. 969

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The Lone Star State lost a premier blues and jazz
2 musician when Herbert William McKinny, widely known as Kinny Abair,
3 passed away on February 15, 2003; and

4 WHEREAS, This outstanding Texas musician was born on October
5 16, 1938; since the age of five, when he learned to play a guitar he
6 built himself, Mr. McKinny showed a remarkable aptitude for music,
7 studying the violin in his youth and attending the Berklee College
8 of Music in Boston as a young man out of the U.S. Navy; and

9 WHEREAS, Influenced by such music notables as Brownie McGhee,
10 Billy Bizer, Johnny Clyde Copeland, and Sam "Lightnin'" Hopkins,
11 Mr. McKinny swiftly rose to prominence as a jazz guitarist with a
12 distinctive blues sound; and

13 WHEREAS, Audiences across the United States and Europe
14 enjoyed the fresh sound that emanated from his hollow body guitar;
15 in addition to his touring, Mr. McKinny performed for the
16 television miniseries *A Woman of Independent Means*, the movie
17 *RoboCop*, and the critically acclaimed documentary *The Strange*
18 *Demise of Jim Crow*; he also taught guitar lessons at Texas Southern
19 University; and

20 WHEREAS, This talented musician is being remembered on April
21 19, 2003, with a live concert by "Aubrey Dunham and The Party
22 Machine," a tribute to the enduring legacy of this esteemed Texas
23 artist; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 78th Texas

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1 Legislature hereby honor the memory of Herbert William McKinny and
2 extend sincere sympathy to his family, friends, and countless fans,
3 and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day,
4 it do so in memory of Kinny Abair.