

1 CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be prepared in
23 memory of and in honor of Wolfman Jack.