

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 626

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to pay tribute to the life of jazz guitarist and playwright Herbert William McKinney, who died on February 15, 2003; and

WHEREAS, Herbert William McKinney, better known as Kinny Abair, found his calling as a musician at the young age of five, when he made his own guitar and taught himself to play; at the age of 12, he started studying violin and received his first commercially made guitar as a gift from his father; he soon perfected his craft as a jazz guitarist and entered the jazz music field to the applause of many; and

WHEREAS, After serving in the United States Navy, Kinny studied at the Berklee College of Music in Boston; and

WHEREAS, Kinny returned to Texas to pursue his career in music; his playing style was influenced by several famous musicians, including Sam "Lightnin" Hopkins, and he became known as a versatile artist who entertained audiences across the nation and in Europe; he recently made appearances in Houston at the 18th Annual Houston Jazz Festival and the Houston Blues Fest; and

WHEREAS, A multitalented musician and performer, Kinny performed in the television miniseries *A Woman of Independent Means* and the movie *Robocop*; he played for the Alley Theatre production of "Seven Guitars," and he recorded the soundtrack for the critically acclaimed documentary "The Strange Demise of Jim Crow"; Kinny also taught guitar at Texas Southern University; and

WHEREAS, A gifted gentleman who was beloved and respected by many, Kinny is being honored by his former colleagues at the "Aubrey Dunham and The Party Machine" concert at the Red Cat Jazz Café in Houston on April 19, 2003; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby commend the many contributions of Herbert William McKinney to our state's musical heritage and join in the celebration of his life by his fellow musicians.

Ellis

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 15, 2003.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate