

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 930

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize the Barkays for their talent and their many years of outstanding musical performances; and

**WHEREAS**, James Alexander, Larry Dodson, and The Legendary Barkays are the featured entertainers at a reception for May Walker, candidate for Harris County Constable, in Houston on May 30, 2003; and

**WHEREAS**, The Barkays are noted for their spontaneity and the excitement they create when they perform; the band today is the result of the evolving musical group that began in the 1960s as a house band with Stax Records in Memphis, Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, The Barkays' first single, "Soul Finger," was a smash hit on rhythm and blues charts in the 1960s, but a short time later, four members of the band were killed in a tragic airplane crash along with legendary soul singer Otis Redding; the surviving members of the band, James Alexander and Ben Cauley, regrouped and, with the help of the late Allen Jones, continued to rebuild the band and maintain its standards of professionalism and showmanship; and

**WHEREAS**, Larry Dodson soon joined the band and became its lead singer as well as the cornerstone for the rebuilding of the Barkays; throughout the 1970s, the band was the backup to some of the most distinguished names in rhythm and blues music, and they produced a string of their own hits; and

**WHEREAS**, After a hiatus in the 1980s, the band regrouped again in 1991, when the talents of Harvey Henderson and Winston Stewart were added to those of James Alexander and Larry Dodson; the combination of the older professionals with the exuberance of the younger members made for a broader spectrum of music appealing to a diverse audience; and

**WHEREAS**, Now working on their 28th album, the Barkays can expect to add to their string of hits; they have five gold albums and one platinum album to their credit and 37 singles with 28 singles in the Top Ten; and

**WHEREAS**, The music of the Barkays has found a place in the repertoires of numerous new artists, and after an outstanding performance on a Home Box Office special in 1997, the band has experienced a boost in their career; today the band tours to sold-out audiences with their "funky" rhythm and blues-jazz-rock-and-roll music; and

**WHEREAS**, The Barkays were honored recently by a request by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame for a garment from their colorful stage wardrobe and a piece of equipment to add to the museum's

collection; the success of the Barkays is a lasting testimonial to the musicians' tenacity and the popularity of their music; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby commend the Barkays for the enduring legacy of their music and the entertainment they provide to people of all ages; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Ellis

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 21, 2003.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate