

By: Hilderbran

H.C.R. No. 25

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Fans of country-western and popular music  
2 experienced a profound loss with the passing of songwriting legend  
3 Cindy Walker on March 23, 2006, at the age of 87; and

4 WHEREAS, A native Texan, Ms. Walker was born on July 20, 1918,  
5 near the Central Texas town of Mart; she once proclaimed that  
6 "songwriting is all I ever did love," and she began that love affair  
7 when she was just 12 years old, following the example of two other  
8 musicians in her family: her mother, Oree, a pianist who assisted  
9 Cindy in shaping her songs, and her grandfather, F. L. Eiland, a  
10 noted writer of religious hymns; and

11 WHEREAS, Ms. Walker's immense talent was matched by her  
12 determined spirit and engaging personality; in 1940, while still an  
13 unknown and unpublished songwriter, she strode confidently into the  
14 Los Angeles office of Bing Crosby and convinced him to record her  
15 song "Lone Star Trail"; this marked the beginning of a career that  
16 would extend for more than a half-century and see more than 500 of  
17 her compositions turned into recordings--many of them becoming  
18 chart-topping hits; and

19 WHEREAS, To name but a few of Ms. Walker's songs and the  
20 artists who popularized them is to sound a roll call of legendary  
21 music and legendary musicians: "Bubbles in My Beer" and "Cherokee  
22 Maiden" by Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys, "Dream Baby" by Roy  
23 Orbison, "In the Misty Moonlight" by Dean Martin, "Two Glasses,  
24 Joe" by Ernest Tubb, "Silver Spurs" by Gene Autry, "I Don't Care," a

1 hit for both Webb Pierce and Ricky Skaggs, and her best-known song,  
2 "You Don't Know Me," which was recorded by Eddy Arnold (the tune's  
3 coauthor), Ray Charles, Elvis Presley, and more than 70 other  
4 artists, becoming a true American standard; and

5 WHEREAS, This incomparable songsmith also enjoyed success as  
6 a recording artist and film actress during her tenure in Los Angeles  
7 in the 1940s and 1950s but elected to return to Texas in 1954,  
8 settling into the comfortable house in Mexia that would serve as her  
9 home for the rest of her life; and

10 WHEREAS, Cindy Walker continued to produce top-quality  
11 songs, and even in her final years she relished her ritual of  
12 awaking before dawn, pouring a cup of coffee, and beginning another  
13 day of crafting words and music; her enduring legacy as one of  
14 America's great songwriters was made clear by her induction into  
15 the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Nashville Songwriters Hall of  
16 Fame, and the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame, as well as in the  
17 many tributes paid by colleagues such as Willie Nelson, who this  
18 very year released a collection of Ms. Walker's musical  
19 compositions; and

20 WHEREAS, The State of Texas is known around the world for its  
21 legendary music, and Cindy Walker's songs stand as an essential  
22 part of that tradition; in penning an outstanding body of work that  
23 evokes the western heritage of her home state and the sad and joyous  
24 affairs of the heart, this extraordinary writer created enjoyment  
25 for millions and brought further artistic acclaim to the Lone Star  
26 State; now, therefore, be it

27 RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas,

1 3rd Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the life and achievements  
2 of Cindy Walker and extend sincere condolences to her loved ones and  
3 to her countless admirers across Texas and beyond; and, be it  
4 further

5         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
6 prepared for her family and that when the Texas House of  
7 Representatives and Senate adjourn this day, they do so in memory of  
8 Cindy Walker.