

By: Merritt

H.C.R. No. 221

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1           WHEREAS, Popular country music recording artist and native  
2 Texan Neal McCoy was named the recipient of the Humanitarian Award  
3 at the 40th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards on May 17, 2005;  
4 and

5           WHEREAS, The first "fan-voted" award in the academy's  
6 history, the Academy of Country Music/Home Depot Humanitarian Award  
7 salutes an artist in the country music industry who is committed to  
8 serving others and has a generosity of spirit and a dedication to  
9 helping build the dreams of those in need; for his achievement, Mr.  
10 McCoy wins the opportunity to have a playground built in the  
11 community of his choice through the efforts of Home Depot and  
12 KaBOOM!, a nonprofit organization that brings together volunteers  
13 to build much-needed playgrounds in one-day "barn-raising"  
14 construction events; Mr. McCoy's fan club has reported that he  
15 hopes to have a park built in the Spring Hill area of Longview, the  
16 city where he and his family reside today; and

17           WHEREAS, This outstanding Texan was born and raised in  
18 Jacksonville, where he first developed his love of music as a boy  
19 watching entertainers perform on television and when the rodeo came  
20 to town; he released his first record in 1990, and since his  
21 breakout hit, "No Doubt About It," four years later, he has sold  
22 more than five million copies of his albums, which include three  
23 platinum and one gold, and has twice been voted TNN/Music City News  
24 "Entertainer of the Year"; and

1           WHEREAS, More than a decade ago, Mr. McCoy and his wife,  
2 Melinda, founded the East Texas Angel Network, which provides  
3 financial support for families of children living with terminal or  
4 life-threatening illnesses; the organization has raised more than  
5 \$3 million to date and has thus far helped ease some of the  
6 financial burden confronting more than 250 area families; Mr. McCoy  
7 has also participated in eight USO tours in various regions of the  
8 world where U.S. soldiers are serving, which encompassed two recent  
9 tours in the Persian Gulf region and a visit to schoolchildren in  
10 Iraq; and

11           WHEREAS, Despite the demands of a hugely successful career in  
12 the music industry, Neal McCoy has taken the time to give back to  
13 his fellow Texans and his fellow Americans across the globe, and  
14 this prestigious award justly acknowledges his compassion and  
15 commitment to making the world a better place; now, therefore, be it

16           RESOLVED, That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas  
17 hereby congratulate Neal McCoy on being named the 2005 Humanitarian  
18 of the Year at the 40th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards and  
19 designate October 1, 2005, as Neal McCoy Day in Texas in honor of  
20 his selfless service in behalf of those in need; and, be it further

21           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
22 prepared for Mr. McCoy as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
23 House of Representatives and Senate.