

By: Naishtat

H.R. No. 448

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The year 2005 marks the 100th birthday anniversary  
2 of Lone Star musical pioneer Bob Wills, and the Texas House of  
3 Representatives is pleased to recognize March 3, 2005, as Bob Wills  
4 Day at the Capitol in celebration of the life and cultural  
5 contributions of this true Texas original; and

6           WHEREAS, Born in Limestone County on March 6, 1905, James  
7 Robert Wills was the eldest of 10 children and a musical prodigy who  
8 found his calling at a young age, making his professional debut at  
9 the age of 10; the undisputed King of Western Swing, he continued  
10 his lifelong love affair with music until his passing in May 1975,  
11 at the age of 70, in Fort Worth; and

12           WHEREAS, A member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, Mr. Wills  
13 cut his musical teeth playing fiddle at square dances, traveling  
14 with a medicine show, and performing with the Wills Fiddle Band,  
15 Aladdin's Laddies, and the Light Crust Doughboys, one of the era's  
16 most successful bands; and

17           WHEREAS, Following an acrimonious split with manager W. Lee  
18 "Pappy" O'Daniel, Mr. Wills and several erstwhile Doughboys  
19 reformed as Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys; the group broke new  
20 musical ground by combining traditional country music with the  
21 popular big band style, and this visionary fusion redefined  
22 American musical tastes and propelled Bob Wills and His Texas  
23 Playboys to national prominence; and

24           WHEREAS, Mr. Wills and his world-renowned band produced

1 several major hit records during their extraordinary career,  
2 including "New San Antonio Rose," "Ida Red Likes the Boogie,"  
3 "Faded Love," and the band's biggest hit, "New Spanish Two Step,"  
4 which topped the charts for 16 weeks; and

5 WHEREAS, Bob Wills left an indelible mark on the landscape of  
6 popular music, inspiring future generations of musicians to explore  
7 the boundaries of the musical terrain, and his contributions will  
8 undoubtedly continue to have a positive and lasting effect for  
9 years to come; now, therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas  
11 Legislature hereby recognize March 3, 2005, as Bob Wills Day at the  
12 Capitol and pay tribute to the memory of this iconic Texas musician.