

By: Crownover

H.R. No. 814

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, In February 2005, the members of Brave Combo, a
2 Denton-based New Wave polka band, received their second Grammy
3 Award for their 25th anniversary album, *Let's Kiss*, and this
4 prestigious accolade provides a fitting time to take special note
5 of the eclectic, storied history of this unique musical outfit; and

6 WHEREAS, America's premier contemporary polka band was born
7 in Denton in 1979, when bandleader Carl Finch and the original
8 lineup released their first record on the band's own Four Dot
9 Records; along with Finch, multi-instrumentalist Jeffrey Barnes
10 and bassist-singer Cenobio Hernandez have contributed to the band's
11 unclassifiable sound for most of the group's existence; the current
12 lineup also includes trumpet and flugelhorn player Danny O'Brien
13 and percussionist Alan Emert; and

14 WHEREAS, Described as everything from a world music act to a
15 hot jazz quintet, from a rollicking rock and roll band to a Tex-Mex
16 conjunto group, Brave Combo comes from vast and varied influences;
17 they like to mix and match styles such as klezmer, surf rock, polka,
18 zydeco, acid rock, and classical, and this experimentation has won
19 them critical accolades and legions of devoted fans; and

20 WHEREAS, One such fan is Matt Groening, the creator of the
21 "Simpsons," who has invited the band to appear on the show's
22 Oktoberfest episode and to play the 200th episode party; the
23 group's dedication to musicianship and belief that music should be
24 fun has earned them a spot in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and

1 the main attraction billings at weddings, festivals, clubs,
2 colleges, and state fairs; and

3 WHEREAS, In addition to their recent Grammy win, Brave Combo
4 has been awarded honors three years in a row from the critics of the
5 respected jazz magazine, *Downbeat*; the band received its first
6 Grammy Award in 2000 for *Polkasonic*, an album released in 1999; and

7 WHEREAS, The longevity and perseverance of Brave Combo speaks
8 to the talent of its members, who have experimented with many forms
9 without ever sacrificing skill and musicianship; they deserve wide
10 recognition for their sincerity and integrity, which has allowed
11 them to dispense with the pressures of conformity and pursue their
12 own sound for 25 productive years; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
14 Legislature hereby congratulate the members of Brave Combo on
15 receiving their second Grammy Award and extend to them sincere best
16 wishes for continued success and accomplishment; and, be it further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for the band as an expression of high regard by the Texas
19 House of Representatives.