

By: Frost

H.R. No. 1158

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, With the passing of Wilbert Andrew "Big Daddy"
2 Griffin of Texarkana, Arkansas, on March 18, 2005, at the age of 73,
3 the world has lost a distinctive and influential voice, and we join
4 his family and many friends in mourning their loss; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Alexandria, Louisiana, Mr. Griffin first
6 moved to Texarkana in 1971 and distinguished himself as a
7 larger-than-life presence in the fields of broadcasting and
8 entertainment; and

9 WHEREAS, His commanding presence and authoritative command
10 of musical history secured his stature as one of the area's
11 preeminent disc jockeys, and many of his colleagues claim him as a
12 definitive influence; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Griffin lived a life rich with experience, and
14 in addition to his career as a disc jockey he served in the U.S. Army
15 for 18 years and worked at a number of occupations, including police
16 officer, cosmetologist, car salesman, radio station manager,
17 television host, and bodyguard to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; and

18 WHEREAS, As well as loving the blues, he was deeply committed
19 to the betterment of his community, and he gave generously of his
20 time and talents to worthy causes, including Head Start and the Boy
21 Scouts of America; and

22 WHEREAS, Although his booming voice has been stilled, Big
23 Daddy Griffin's joyous spirit shines on in the hearts of all those
24 whose lives he touched and in the music he loved and championed

1 throughout his life; now, therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 79th Texas
3 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Wilbert Andrew "Big
4 Daddy" Griffin and extend sincere sympathy to the members of his
5 family: to his wife, Darlene Griffin; to his children, Kathy
6 Martin, Gwendolyn Jones, Rosia Griffin, Mark Griffin, Mallory
7 Hunter, W. A. "Wag" Griffin, Will Reeves, and Terral Griffin; to his
8 stepchildren, Charlie Powell, Montieth Powell, and Tanesha Powell;
9 to his sister, Edith Pitts; and to his other relatives and many
10 friends and admirers; and, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
12 prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House
13 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Wilbert
14 Andrew "Big Daddy" Griffin.