

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 292

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Mr. Wills and his world-renowned band produced several major hit records during their extraordinary career,

including "New San Antonio Rose," "Ida Red Likes the Boogie," "Faded Love," and the band's biggest hit, "New Spanish Two Step," which topped the charts for 16 weeks; and

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

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

Armbrister
Averitt
Barrientos
Brimer
Carona
Duncan
Ellis
Eltife
Estes
Fraser

Gallegos
Harris
Hinojosa
Jackson
Janek
Lindsay
Lucio
Madla
Nelson
Ogden

Deuell
Seliger
Shapiro
Shapleigh
Staples
Van de Putte
Wentworth
West
Whitmire
Williams
Zaffirini

Dewhurst, President of the Senate

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 3, 2005.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate