

By: Dutton

H.R. No. 911

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Today the Texas House of Representatives honors the  
2 many accomplishments and generous contributions of a great Texan  
3 and a legendary musician and composer, Joe Sample; and

4           WHEREAS, Born in Houston on February 1, 1939, Joseph Leslie  
5 Sample was playing the piano at the age of five; he was already  
6 soaking in all the various musical influences of Houston's Fifth  
7 Ward, from gospel to rock and roll, from Latin to soul to zydeco,  
8 and from jazz and blues to classical music; and

9           WHEREAS, With his boyhood friends Wayne Henderson, Wilton  
10 Felder, and Stix Hooper, Joe Sample formed a group in high school  
11 called the Swingsters; they continued to play together while  
12 attending Texas Southern University, then moved to Los Angeles in  
13 1960; renaming the group the Jazz Crusaders, they gained a national  
14 reputation playing jazz inflected by what they had heard growing up  
15 on the streets of Houston; and

16           WHEREAS, Changing their name again in 1971, the musicians  
17 became simply the Crusaders, and their fusion of jazz, soul, and  
18 rhythm and blues became one of the signature sounds of American  
19 popular music; working with such performers as Marvin Gaye, Joni  
20 Mitchell, and Steely Dan, they recorded a series of iconic albums,  
21 including *The Second Crusade*, *Unsung Heroes*, *Southern Comfort*,  
22 *Chain Reaction*, and *Those Southern Knights*, culminating in 1979  
23 with their international hit "Street Life"; and

24           WHEREAS, Joe Sample's first solo album, *Rainbow Seeker*,

1 released in 1978, was a masterpiece of lyricism and introspection;  
2 his catalog of songs from "Street Life" to "When Your Life Was Low"  
3 to "Dear Mama" has been covered by a multitude of artists; Nicole  
4 Kidman sang his hit "Someday I'll Fly Away" in the film *Moulin*  
5 *Rouge*, and his recordings have been sampled by contemporary artists  
6 including Tupac, Queen Latifah, Ice Cube, Destiny's Child, and Lil'  
7 Bow Wow; a sought-after keyboardist, he has performed throughout  
8 the years with such artists as Eric Clapton, B. B. King, Tina  
9 Turner, Joan Baez, the Beach Boys, George Benson, and Gladys  
10 Knight; and

11 WHEREAS, He continues to write and perform to great acclaim;  
12 his recent recordings include the Crusaders reunion *Rural Renewal*;  
13 his collaboration with vocalist Randy Crawford, entitled *Feeling*  
14 *Good*; and his 2002 release, *The Pecan Tree*, which highlights the  
15 music and culture of southeast Texas; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2005, he returned to his hometown of Houston and  
17 established the Joe Sample Youth Organization, through which he  
18 raises money for inner-city schools, including his old elementary  
19 school, Our Mother of Mercy Catholic School, the oldest  
20 historically African American elementary school in Houston;  
21 through a series of concerts, Mr. Sample has raised over \$100,000  
22 for the schools; his third annual fund-raising concert is scheduled  
23 for September of this year; and

24 WHEREAS, Joe Sample's contributions to the musical heritage  
25 of the Lone Star State are immeasurable, and he remains one of  
26 America's most influential performers and composers; the joy and  
27 excitement he has brought generations of fans are matched only by

1 his selfless and committed service to his community, and his  
2 enormous talent is matched only by his generous heart; now,  
3 therefore, be it

4         RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas  
5 Legislature hereby honor Joe Sample for the gift of his music and  
6 for his devotion to his community and extend to him very best wishes  
7 for the future; and, be it further

8         RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
9 prepared for Mr. Sample as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
10 House of Representatives.