

By: Dukes

H.R. No. 1986

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A man who devoted his life to promoting the timeless
2 American music that he cherished, Clifford Jamal Antone of Austin
3 passed away on May 23, 2006; and

4 WHEREAS, Known as "C. J." to his close acquaintances,
5 Clifford Antone was born on October 27, 1949, in Port Arthur and
6 moved to the capital city in the late 1960s to attend The University
7 of Texas at Austin; his most rewarding studies came not in college
8 classrooms, however, but from his own investigation of blues music;
9 Mr. Antone once commented that "when I finally heard the Chicago
10 blues, man, it was like I finally discovered what had been in my
11 mind my whole life"; in 1975, he made his passion his business by
12 opening Antone's, a music club that helped transform Austin into
13 the self-proclaimed Live Music Capital of the World; and

14 WHEREAS, From the beginning, Antone's booked the legendary
15 blues stars that its owner admired, including Muddy Waters, Willie
16 Dixon, Fats Domino, John Lee Hooker, and B. B. King; in giving these
17 artists and many others a welcoming place to perform, Clifford
18 Antone helped bring their music to a new generation of fans; in
19 addition, young musicians converged on the club to study the
20 masters, and Mr. Antone nurtured their interest and abilities by
21 allowing them to take the stage; with his help, blues-powered acts
22 such as Stevie Ray Vaughan and the Fabulous Thunderbirds honed
23 their talents and achieved national stardom; today, more than three
24 decades after it first opened, Antone's remains one of the

1 best-known music clubs in Texas; and

2 WHEREAS, Clifford Antone's enthusiasm for American music
3 never waned, and in later years, he was able to share his
4 encyclopedic knowledge of the blues in college courses that he
5 taught at UT and at Texas State University-San Marcos; he also took
6 an active role in helping those in need, raising funds for the
7 American YouthWorks organization, which assists at-risk young
8 people in Austin, and staging a star-studded benefit for victims of
9 Hurricane Katrina; and

10 WHEREAS, Revered by musicians and fans alike, Clifford Antone
11 became an influential ambassador for the blues and a friend to the
12 many musicians whose careers he assisted, and in so doing, this
13 renowned impresario helped build and preserve the rich musical
14 legacy of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
16 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Clifford Antone and
17 extend deepest condolences to the members of his family: to his
18 sisters, Susan Antone and Janelle Antone Raad, to his niece and
19 nephew, Georgette and Jamal Raad, and to his other relatives and
20 many friends; and, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
22 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
23 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Clifford
24 Antone.