

By: Naishtat

H.R. No. 2042

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, For decades, the neon glow of the Continental Club
2 sign along Austin's South Congress Avenue has been a signpost to
3 cool, marking a legendary nightclub that has long been a foundation
4 of the city's live music scene; and

5 WHEREAS, Emblazoned above that sign is the revered name of
6 "Elvis," and the energy and rebellious spirit of the King of
7 Rock-n-Roll pervades this nightspot, which has been frequented by
8 so many inspired musicians and fervent fans over the course of its
9 rich history; and

10 WHEREAS, Fittingly, the Continental Club was born in 1957 in
11 the heyday of Elvis, though in its first incarnation it was a posh
12 dinner club that hosted big band acts such as the Tommy Dorsey
13 Orchestra rather than the ruffians of rock-n-roll; in the 1960s,
14 the Continental Club transformed into a burlesque showplace, with
15 performers such as Bubbles Cash orchestrating entertainment of a
16 different sort; and

17 WHEREAS, Live music returned to the Continental in 1978, and
18 over the following decade, the club played host to many of the great
19 acts that ignited Austin's reputation as one of the hottest music
20 towns in the nation; Stevie Ray Vaughan, Joe Ely, Junior Brown, and
21 many other Texas legends rocked the Continental, as did touring
22 acts from around the U.S.; and

23 WHEREAS, In 1987, Steve Wertheimer became the owner of the
24 Continental Club, and for the past two decades, he has continued to

1 build on its image as one of the best-known nightspots in Texas;
2 broadening the club's musical offerings to include roots rock,
3 country, western swing, rockabilly, and more, Mr. Wertheimer has
4 bolstered the careers of countless performers and showcased the
5 artistic diversity of the Lone Star State; he has also restored the
6 club's original 1950s decor and has added to the vintage atmosphere
7 with red velvet curtains, neon, music memorabilia, and an
8 impressive collection of custom hotrods that are often lined up out
9 front; and

10 WHEREAS, The unique character of a city is often most visible
11 in its entertainment venues, and the Continental Club stands as a
12 testament to the rousing music and distinctive appeal of Austin;
13 now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 80th Texas
15 Legislature hereby commemorate the Continental Club as a
16 centerpiece of Austin nightlife on the 50th anniversary of its
17 founding and commend Steve Wertheimer and all those associated with
18 the club for their many years of inspired work; and, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for Mr. Wertheimer as an expression of high regard by the
21 Texas House of Representatives.