

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 264

In Memory
of
Freddy Fender

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas commemorates the life of Freddy Fender, who died October 16, 2006, at the age of 69; and

WHEREAS, He was born Baldemar Huerta in 1937 in San Benito, where he was influenced by the Mexican-polka sound known as conjunto; the son of migrant workers, he worked alongside his parents in the fields, and there picked up the melancholy sound of the blues in the songs of the black people he worked with; and

WHEREAS, While still just a boy, he was performing on radio and often won contests for his singing; he was proud of his Mexican-American heritage and sang popular tunes of the day in Spanish, including Elvis Presley's "Don't Be Cruel" and Harry Belafonte's "Jamaica Farewell," which became big hits in Mexico and South America; and

WHEREAS, He took the name Freddy Fender after signing on with Imperial Records in 1959; the following year he recorded "Wasted Days and Wasted Nights"; and

WHEREAS, In the 60s and early 70s, Freddy went through a time of adversity and disappointment, but he returned to prominence in 1974 with the hit, "Before the Next Teardrop Falls"; in 1975, he won best new artist award from the Academy of Country Music and a rerelease of "Wasted Days and Wasted Nights" topped the country music chart and landed in the top 10 on the pop music chart; and

WHEREAS, He appeared in movies and received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1999; he won a Grammy for the best Latin

pop album in 2002 and shared two Grammy awards, one with the Texas Tornados and one with Los Super Seven; and

WHEREAS, Freddy Fender was known for his unique sound and memorable music and he will long be remembered by his family and many fans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby pay tribute to the life of Freddy Fender and extend sincere condolences to the members of his bereaved family; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for his family as an expression of deepest sympathy from the Texas Senate, and that when the Senate adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Freddy Fender.

Lucio, Hinojosa

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 19, 2007, by a rising vote.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate

Member, Texas Senate