

By: Dutton

H.C.R. No. 94

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Jazz is an original American art form that affirms
2 the noblest aspirations of our national character, individual
3 discipline, perseverance, and innovation; and

4 WHEREAS, To acknowledge the integral role that jazz music
5 plays in the cultural life of the United States, a campaign has been
6 ongoing in recent years to designate April as Jazz Appreciation
7 Month, with 15 states and numerous cities having already given
8 official recognition to this observance; and

9 WHEREAS, Initiated by the National Museum of American History
10 of the Smithsonian Institution, Jazz Appreciation Month was
11 established to highlight the multicultural history of jazz, its
12 important influence on American life, and the evocative music that
13 has been created by the nation's jazz musicians; and

14 WHEREAS, This admirable effort is a fitting tribute to this
15 musical art form; jazz has produced some of America's leading
16 creative artists and ranks as one of the country's greatest
17 cultural exports to the world; and

18 WHEREAS, Immensely influential in the arts, jazz has inspired
19 classical composers and musicians in many other genres, and its
20 rhythms and spirit of improvisation have also been adopted in
21 artistic fields such as dance, poetry, fiction, and film; and

22 WHEREAS, Jazz has spoken eloquently of freedom for people in
23 the United States and abroad and has become an international
24 language that bridges differences and brings together people of all

1 races, ages, and backgrounds; and

2 WHEREAS, America's jazz heritage deserves to be appreciated
3 as broadly as possible, and this goal can be furthered through
4 education efforts aimed at both children and adults; the
5 designation of Jazz Appreciation Month plays a role in this process
6 by focusing public attention on the music and by providing an annual
7 observance that inspires special concerts and other events to
8 showcase the music; and

9 WHEREAS, Intimately linked with the history of our nation,
10 jazz speaks to the rich and diverse experiences of Americans, and
11 this compelling form of artistic expression indeed deserves to be
12 celebrated and preserved; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the 81st Legislature of the State of Texas
14 hereby proclaim April 2009 as Jazz Appreciation Month in Texas and
15 urge all Texans to take this opportunity to attend performances,
16 listen to recordings, and learn more about the music.