

By: Flynn

H.R. No. 564

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The 80th birthday of an illustrious Texan calls for
2 a real celebration, and appropriately, country music singer Tony
3 Douglas of Athens is marking this milestone with family, friends,
4 and devoted fans at a special concert at the Canton Civic Center on
5 April 18, 2009; and

6 WHEREAS, Born in Martins Mill on April 12, 1929, Mr. Douglas
7 began performing while serving his country in the U.S. Army during
8 the Korean War; when his tour of duty ended, he and his wife, Mim,
9 moved to Athens and he sang at weekend shows in small towns before
10 winning a regular spot on the *Cowtown Hoedown* program in Fort Worth;
11 on hearing his warm, clear voice, Johnny Horton's manager invited
12 him to guest on the famed *Louisiana Hayride*, and Mr. Douglas soon
13 joined the cast of the show; and

14 WHEREAS, This compelling vocalist began recording in 1956,
15 and the next year he got his big break; the *Grand Ole Opry* offered
16 him a three-year contract, but when he learned he would be required
17 to move to Nashville, he decided to remain with the *Hayride*; he and
18 his band, the Shrimpers, also toured the country on the strength of
19 such popular recordings as "Shrimpin'," "His and Hers," and "Thank
20 You for Touching My Life"; and

21 WHEREAS, Although country radio and the music business have
22 changed immensely, Mr. Douglas has remained ever true to his roots
23 and to such influences as Hank Williams and Lefty Frizzell; for a
24 few years, Mr. Douglas quit performing and turned his attention to

1 his produce stand, Papa T's, but his fans were not ready for him to
2 retire, and today his concerts continue to delight aficionados of
3 pure, unadulterated country music; and

4 WHEREAS, Tony Douglas put his love of Texas above the siren
5 call of fame, and his fellow citizens are fortunate indeed to have
6 this gifted musician call the Lone Star State home; now, therefore,
7 be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
9 Legislature hereby congratulate Tony Douglas on the occasion of his
10 80th birthday and extend to him best wishes for continued success
11 and happiness; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
13 prepared for Mr. Douglas as an expression of high regard by the
14 Texas House of Representatives.