

By: Edwards

H.R. No. 2619

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Through his faith and the gift of his music, Hazzan
2 David Propis has enriched the spiritual lives of members of
3 Congregation Beth Yeshurun and brought joy to audiences in Houston
4 and beyond; and

5 WHEREAS, David Propis, born in Canada and raised in
6 Philadelphia, made his debut as a soloist at the age of five in the
7 choir led by his father, renowned cantor Dov Propis; he absorbed a
8 love of Jewish and Chassidic music from his family and trained in
9 the traditional cantorial style with his father and with famed
10 Israeli cantor Chayim Eliezer Hershtik, and he studied voice with
11 opera diva Elena Nikolaidi and with Dr. Steven Smith of the Houston
12 Grand Opera; he joined Congregation Beth Yushurun in 1994; and

13 WHEREAS, A valued member of the Cantors Assembly, Inc., the
14 largest governing body of hazzanut in the world, Hazzan Propis has
15 served as vice president and held several other leadership
16 positions in the organization; the Gila and Chaim Weiner Foundation
17 for the Advancement of the Cantorial Arts granted him its master
18 cantor certificate, and he has received the Lion of Judah award from
19 the State of Israel Bonds, among other honors; and

20 WHEREAS, This talented artist has released a number of
21 recordings, including *Visions of Shabbat*, which also features his
22 daughter, Dena Propis, and *Inspirations: Memories of Home*, created
23 for the Holocaust Museum Houston, of which he is a charter board
24 member; moreover, Hazzan Propis has performed before numerous

1 general audiences, made his Carnegie Hall debut in 1998, and
2 starred as one of *The Three Cantors* in sold-out concerts at Wortham
3 Center in Houston; in addition to appearing with such comedians as
4 Yakov Smirnoff and Jackie Mason, he has played leading roles in
5 Houston theatrical productions and has sung stirring renditions of
6 "The Star-Spangled Banner" at national sporting events; and

7 WHEREAS, A man of great faith, Hazzan David Propis has
8 brought profound inspiration to countless people and it is indeed a
9 pleasure to recognize his artistic contributions to the community;
10 now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas
12 Legislature hereby recognize Hazzan David Propis for his
13 accomplishments and service to the community and extend to him
14 sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
16 prepared for Hazzan Propis as an expression of high regard by the
17 Texas House of Representatives.