

By: Davis of Dallas

H.R. No. 148

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, An American icon and renowned Texas troubadour,
2 Willie Nelson has brought joy to people around the world for half a
3 century and more; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Myrle and Ira Nelson, Willie Hugh Nelson
5 was born in Abbott on April 30, 1933; he and his older sister,
6 Bobbie, were raised by their paternal grandparents, who encouraged
7 their musical talents; while still just a child, he began playing
8 guitar in a polka band, and he and his sister later played on the
9 local club circuit with Bud Fletcher and the Texans; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Nelson found work in the 1950s as a DJ in Fort
11 Worth and performed in local honky-tonks; he wrote his famous
12 gospel song "Family Bible," and his songs soon became smash hits for
13 Ray Price, Patsy Cline, Roy Orbison, and many other stars; today,
14 such early compositions as "Night Life," "Crazy," "Hello Walls,"
15 and "Funny How Time Slips Away" remain treasured classics; and

16 WHEREAS, After living in Nashville, he came to Austin in 1970
17 and found his own audience as a leading proponent of "outlaw
18 country," incorporating rock 'n' roll, folk, and other influences;
19 he started a new Texas tradition with his freewheeling Fourth of
20 July picnics, and in 1975 he made a commercial breakthrough with *Red*
21 *Headed Stranger*; duets with Waylon Jennings on "Good Hearted Woman"
22 and "Mamas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Cowboys" brought even
23 greater success, and his album of standards, *Stardust*, spent nearly
24 a decade on the country charts and sold more than four million

1 copies; and

2 WHEREAS, His film career took off with roles in *The Electric*
3 *Horseman* and *Honeysuckle Rose*, and the latter yielded a signature
4 song, "On the Road Again"; Mr. Nelson and Julio Iglesias ruled the
5 airwaves with their crossover duet "To All the Girls I've Loved
6 Before," and Mr. Nelson united with Waylon Jennings, Johnny Cash,
7 and Kris Kristofferson in the supergroup the Highwaymen for a host
8 of hits; and

9 WHEREAS, In the 1990s, Mr. Nelson continued his streak on the
10 country charts with such albums as *Across the Borderline*, and the
11 present decade has found the prolific Texan mining a variety of
12 musical veins, even topping the jazz charts with *Two Men with the*
13 *Blues*, his collaboration with Wynton Marsalis; Mr. Nelson joined
14 with Asleep at the Wheel to celebrate western swing on the 2009
15 release *Willie and the Wheel*, and he received three Grammy
16 nominations that year; his latest album, *Country Music*, is up for a
17 Grammy in the Americana category, and "On the Road Again" is being
18 inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame; and

19 WHEREAS, While maintaining a heavy touring and recording
20 schedule through the years, Mr. Nelson has made time for numerous
21 charitable endeavors; he helped launch Farm Aid in 1985 and serves
22 as president of the organization, which has raised more than \$30
23 million to support family farms; when his hometown struggled, Mr.
24 Nelson came to the rescue, and he continues to support its church
25 and grocery store; his concern for the environment has led him to
26 not only promote the use of alternative fuels but also invest in
27 biodiesel, marketing his own BioWillie brand; moreover, he has

1 established the Willie Nelson Peace Research Institute, advocated
2 for the humane treatment of horses, and headlined countless
3 benefits for those in need; and

4 WHEREAS, The myriad professional accolades bestowed on Mr.
5 Nelson include seven Grammys, nine Country Music Association
6 Awards, and Kennedy Center honors, and he was inducted into the
7 Country Music Hall of Fame in 1993; widely applauded for his good
8 works as well, he is an honorary trustee of the Dayton Peace Museum
9 and has received the B. B. King Blues Hero Award for community
10 service and the Bridging Divides Award from The University of Texas
11 Project on Conflict Resolution and Humanitarians Engaged in
12 Respectful Dialogue; and

13 WHEREAS, Through his incomparable music and his tireless
14 philanthropy, Willie Nelson has made an enormous positive
15 difference in the world around him, and it is indeed a pleasure to
16 recognize him for his accomplishments; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
18 Legislature hereby honor Willie Nelson for his outstanding music
19 career and for his myriad contributions to the Lone Star State and
20 extend to him sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
23 prepared for Mr. Nelson as an expression of high regard by the Texas
24 House of Representatives.