

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The great American composer and singer Deborah Lynn  
2 "Debbie" Friedman has been credited with creating the genre of  
3 contemporary Jewish worship music; and

4           WHEREAS, Debbie Friedman composed much of her early music  
5 while residing in Houston, Texas, from 1975 to 1984; and

6           WHEREAS, Her modern settings of traditional Hebrew liturgy  
7 and original compositions are sung by congregants in Reform,  
8 Reconstructionist, Conservative, and some Modern Orthodox Jewish  
9 synagogues, as well as in some Christian churches; and

10           WHEREAS, Debbie Friedman was called "the Joan Baez of Jewish  
11 song" by the Jewish newspaper *The Forward* and recorded more than 20  
12 albums, which together sold half a million copies, and her lyrics  
13 have appeared on Hallmark greeting cards; and

14           WHEREAS, Her "Mi Shebeirach" prayer for healing is used by  
15 hundreds of congregations across America and is a central part of  
16 the Jewish healing movement, and her "Alef Bet Song" has been  
17 performed by Barney, the purple dinosaur, and has taught two  
18 generations of Jewish children the Hebrew alphabet; and

19           WHEREAS, Deborah Lynn "Debbie" Friedman was born in Utica,  
20 New York, to Freda and Gabriel Friedman; and

21           WHEREAS, Debbie moved with her family to Minnesota at age 5,  
22 where she was a 1969 alumna of Highland Park High School in Saint  
23 Paul and a graduate of the after-school Hebrew school program at the  
24 Talmud Torah of St. Paul; and

1           WHEREAS, She wrote her earliest songs as a song leader at the  
2 overnight camp Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute in Oconomowoc,  
3 Wisconsin, and recorded her first album, *Sing Unto God*, with the  
4 choir of her former high school in 1972; and

5           WHEREAS, Rabbi Samuel Karff brought Ms. Friedman to Houston  
6 in 1975, where she taught at Temple Beth Israel and at Congregation  
7 Beth Yeshurun while writing many of her compositions and,  
8 coincidentally, living in the district of Representative Paul  
9 Colbert, who was her Hebrew school classmate for nine years in St.  
10 Paul; and

11           WHEREAS, After leaving her many friends in Houston, Debbie  
12 Friedman continued to compose and performed her songs in concerts  
13 at venues throughout the world, including her live recordings to  
14 sold-out audiences at Carnegie Hall and the Hotel del Coronado,  
15 despite struggling with a debilitating neurological condition; and

16           WHEREAS, The story of her music, as well as the challenges she  
17 faced in living with illness, were featured in a 2004 documentary  
18 film called *A Journey of Spirit*; and

19           WHEREAS, Ms. Friedman became a teacher at Hebrew Union  
20 College-Jewish Institute of Religion, first in New York and later  
21 in Los Angeles, and served on the board of the Academy for Jewish  
22 Religion, CA; and

23           WHEREAS, Deborah Lynn Friedman succumbed to pneumonia on  
24 January 9, 2011, and her memorial service on the opening day of this  
25 legislative session was attended and watched on the Internet by  
26 almost 10 thousand of her family, friends, and admirers; and

27           WHEREAS, Deborah Lynn Friedman is survived by her mother,

1 Freda, and her sisters Cheryl Friedman and Barbara Egli; and

2 WHEREAS, Debbie Friedman's songs, including "Mi Shebeirach,"  
3 "L'chi Lach," "Miriam's Song," "Oseh Shalom," "Not By Might," "And  
4 Thou Shalt Love," "The Alef Bet Song," "You Are the One," "This is  
5 the Day," and many, many others, have inspired and comforted  
6 millions and will continue to be sung and remembered as a fitting  
7 legacy to this caring and inspiring person; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd  
9 Legislature of the State of Texas hereby pay tribute to the life of  
10 Deborah Lynn "Debbie" Friedman and extend sincere sympathy to the  
11 members of her family: to her mother, Freda; to her sisters, Cheryl  
12 and Barbara; and to her other relatives and many friends; and, be it  
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
15 prepared for her family.

Hochberg

Straus	Gonzales of Williamson	Morrison
Aliseda	Gonzalez	Munoz, Jr.
Allen	Gooden	Murphy
Alonzo	Guillen	Naishtat
Alvarado	Gutierrez	Nash
Anchia	Hamilton	Oliveira
Anderson of Dallas	Hancock	Orr
Anderson of McLennan	Hardcastle	Otto
Aycock	Harless	Parker
Beck	Harper-Brown	Patrick
Berman	Hartnett	Paxton
Bohac	Hernandez Luna	Pena
Bonnen	Hilderbran	Perry
Branch	Hochberg	Phillips
Brown	Hopson	Pickett
Burkett	Howard of Fort Bend	Pitts
Burnam	Howard of Travis	Price
Button	Huberty	Quintanilla
Cain	Hughes	Raymond
Callegari	Hunter	Reynolds
Carter	Isaac	Riddle
Castro	Jackson	Ritter
Chisum	Johnson	Rodriguez
Christian	Keffer	Schwertner
Coleman	King of Parker	Scott
Cook	King of Taylor	Sheets
Craddick	King of Zavala	Sheffield
Creighton	Kleinschmidt	Shelton
Crownover	Kolkhorst	Simpson
Darby	Kuempel	Smith of Harris
Davis of Dallas	Landtroop	Smith of Tarrant
J. Davis of Harris	Larson	Smithee
S. Davis of Harris	Laubenberg	Solomons
Deshotel	Lavender	Strama
Driver	Legler	Taylor of Collin
Dukes	Lewis	Taylor of Galveston
Dutton	Lozano	Thompson
Eiland	Lucio III	Torres
Eissler	Lyne	Truitt
Elkins	Madden	Turner
Farias	Mallory Caraway	Veasey
Farrar	Margo	Villarreal
Fletcher	Marquez	Vo
Flynn	Martinez	Walle
Frullo	Martinez Fischer	Weber
Gallego	McClendon	White
Garza	Menendez	Woolley
Geren	Miles	Workman
Giddings	Miller of Comal	Zedler
Gonzales of Hidalgo	Miller of Erath	Zerwas

H.R. No. 514

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 514 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on February 23, 2011.

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Chief Clerk of the House