

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Respected musician and advocate Ray Benson has been
2 named Texan of the Year by the Texas Legislative Conference in
3 recognition of the admirable achievements he has realized through
4 the years; and

5 WHEREAS, With his selection for the award, Mr. Benson is
6 joining a distinguished list of individuals who have been honored
7 by the Texas Legislative Conference; former winners include Barbara
8 Jordan, Laura Bush, and Governor Rick Perry, and the announcement
9 of the Texan of the Year is a highlight of the organization's annual
10 meeting, which brings together business and political leaders from
11 around the state; and

12 WHEREAS, Ray Benson is well known to music fans in the Lone
13 Star State and the world over for his leadership of Asleep at the
14 Wheel, which was founded in 1970 and settled in Austin three years
15 later; specializing in a spirited brand of western swing music, the
16 band has released more than 25 albums, won nine Grammy Awards, and
17 entertained concert audiences throughout the United States and
18 beyond during its long career; Mr. Benson has also earned acclaim
19 for cowriting and starring in the play *A Ride with Bob*, which pays
20 tribute to Texas music legend Bob Wills; and

21 WHEREAS, An effective organizer in addition to being a
22 talented artist, Mr. Benson has dedicated himself to assisting
23 others, both inside and outside the music industry; he is a founding
24 member of the Rhythm and Blues Foundation, which raises money to

1 help aging R&B artists, as well as the Health Alliance for Austin
2 Musicians and the SIMS Foundation; moreover, he is a member of the
3 board of the St. David's Community Health Foundation and is a
4 trustee for the Texas Chapter of the National Academy of Recording
5 Arts & Sciences; and

6 WHEREAS, This widely admired individual was chosen as the
7 Texas State Musician for 2004 and is a 2011 recipient of the Texas
8 Medal of Arts; he was nominated for Texan of the Year by the
9 Honorable Edmund Kuempel on the night before Representative Kuempel
10 passed away in 2010, and that beloved legislator indeed made a wise
11 choice; over the course of more than 40 years, Ray Benson has
12 distinguished himself through his artistry as well as through his
13 work to strengthen his community and to benefit those in need, and
14 he is truly deserving of this prestigious commendation; now,
15 therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas
17 Legislature hereby congratulate Ray Benson on his selection as
18 Texan of the Year by the Texas Legislative Conference and extend to
19 him sincere best wishes for continued success; and, be it further

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

Miller of Comal

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. 844

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 844 was adopted by the House on March 22, 2011, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House