

By: Miller of Comal

H.R. No. 844

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.