

By: Harper-Brown

H.R. No. 1444

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, A full and generous life drew to a close with the  
2 death of pianist and composer Giorgio Joseph Primo of Irving on  
3 March 4, 2011, at the age of 89; and

4           WHEREAS, George Primo was born on February 2, 1922, in  
5 Detroit, Michigan, to Dominic and Angeline Casale Primo; he was one  
6 of six musically talented children, each of whom played a different  
7 instrument, and in 1939, he wrote the graduation song for his class  
8 at MacKenzie High School; and

9           WHEREAS, Turning to music full-time, Mr. Primo began his  
10 career as a pianist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, and he went  
11 on to serve as staff pianist at WXYZ radio in Detroit from 1940 to  
12 1946, accompanying such popular singers as Dee Parker and Betty  
13 Clooney; in 1947 and 1948, he scored two ballets for the Detroit  
14 Civic Light Opera Company, *Mother Goose Fantasy* and *Fate Ballet*;  
15 and

16           WHEREAS, Mr. Primo later toured the country as the featured  
17 pianist with Henry Bussey and his orchestra and eventually settled  
18 in Las Vegas, where he performed in musical revues, composed  
19 jingles for television and radio commercials, and accompanied many  
20 entertainers; in 1972, he was commissioned to compose and perform a  
21 song for the inauguration of President Richard Nixon, and during  
22 the 1977-1978 television season, he had a recurring role on the hit  
23 private-eye series *Vegas*; and

24           WHEREAS, Hired in 1982 as the house pianist of what is now the

1 Omni Mandalay Hotel, Mr. Primo settled in Irving and soon became a  
2 popular local performer, often lending his talents to charitable  
3 and civic events; well into his 80s, he began composing religious  
4 music, including "Lullaby for Baby Jesus" and an interpretation of  
5 the Lord's Prayer; he attended St. Michael's Catholic Church in  
6 Bedford, where he sang with the choir; and

7       WHEREAS, This dynamic performer was inducted as an honorary  
8 member of the Irving Rotary Club in 2004, serving as the club's  
9 "composer in residence," and he was nominated as a Texas State  
10 Musician in 2006; the following year, he received the City of  
11 Irving's High Spirited Citizen Award; moreover, he was a lifetime  
12 member of the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of  
13 Television and Radio Artists; and

14       WHEREAS, A skilled and engaging performer, George Primo  
15 delighted audiences in the Lone Star State and beyond, and he leaves  
16 behind a record of achievement that will not soon be forgotten; now,  
17 therefore, be it

18       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
19 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Giorgio Joseph Primo  
20 and extend sincere condolences to his son, Gregg County  
21 Commissioner Darryl Primo, and to his other relatives and many  
22 friends; and, be it further

23       RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
24 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
25 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of George  
26 Primo.