

By: Legler

H.R. No. 1980

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Country star Mickey Gilley helped ignite the "urban  
2 cowboy" phenomenon in the 1980s, introducing countless Americans to  
3 the joys of Texas honky-tonk music; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Natchez, Mississippi, on March 9, 1936, Mr.  
5 Gilley grew up in nearby Ferriday, Louisiana; he learned to play  
6 piano at an early age and got an education in rhythm and blues by  
7 secretly listening at the windows of clubs; after his cousin Jerry  
8 Lee Lewis found fame, he grew serious about pursuing a career in  
9 music, and while working construction jobs in Houston, he began  
10 performing on local stages and recorded a number of regional hits on  
11 independent labels; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Gilley broke through on the national level in  
13 1968 with the single "Now I Can Live Again"; his star rose even  
14 higher in the 1970s, with the opening of Gilley's Club in Pasadena  
15 and a phenomenal string of country smashes that included "Room Full  
16 of Roses," "I Overlooked an Orchid," and "Don't the Girls All Get  
17 Prettier at Closing Time"; *Esquire* magazine ran a prominent feature  
18 on Gilley's that became the basis for the blockbuster movie *Urban  
19 Cowboy*; Gilley appeared in the 1980 film and the soundtrack sent his  
20 career into the stratosphere with a platinum single, "Stand By Me";  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, One of the most successful country artists of the  
23 1980s, Mr. Gilley ruled the charts with a new, more pop-oriented  
24 sound; he scored nine number one singles, among them "You Don't Know

1 Me," "Talk to Me," and "That's All That Matters"; eventually,  
2 Gilley's Club ran its course, but he seized another business  
3 opportunity and opened one of the first star-themed venues in  
4 Branson, Missouri; the Mickey Gilley Theatre marked its 20th  
5 anniversary in 2010; and

6 WHEREAS, This dynamic Texan has received many accolades  
7 through the years; Mr. Gilley has won Academy of Country Music  
8 Awards in numerous categories and captured the prestigious  
9 Entertainer of the Year title; in 2002, he was inducted into the  
10 Delta Music Museum Hall of Fame in Ferriday along with his cousins,  
11 Mr. Lewis and Jimmy Swaggart; and

12 WHEREAS, An engaging performer with a staggering roster of  
13 hits, Mr. Gilley continues to captivate audiences around the  
14 country, and it is indeed fitting to recognize his singular place in  
15 the history of Texas music; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
17 Legislature hereby welcome Mickey Gilley to the State Capitol and  
18 extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

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