

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 537

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is proud to recognize Ray Benson, who has been named the 2011 Texan of the Year by the Texas Legislative Conference; and

WHEREAS, A living legend in the music industry, Ray Benson is also a strong community leader who has been selected Texan of the Year for his advocacy on behalf of the health of aging musicians and his volunteer work with a number of health-related foundations; and

WHEREAS, Long dedicated to carrying on the tradition of western swing, Ray Benson founded Asleep at the Wheel in 1970, and he and his band moved to Austin in 1973 at the suggestion of country music legend Willie Nelson; and

WHEREAS, Famous for its spirited brand of western swing, Asleep at the Wheel has released more than 25 albums, has won nine Grammy Awards, and has entertained countless audiences across the nation; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his band's huge success, Ray Benson has earned acclaim as the coauthor of a play that is a tribute to the life of the late Bob Wills; he was named the 2004 Texas State Musician by the Texas House of Representatives, and he is a recent recipient of the Texas Medal of the Arts award; and

WHEREAS, Ray Benson's extensive work on behalf of the community includes founding the Rhythm and Blues Foundation, which raises money to help aging Rhythm and Blues artists, and serving as a founding board member of the SIMS Foundation, which provides low-cost mental health services for Austin musicians; he is also a founding member of the Health Alliance for Austin Musicians; and

WHEREAS, An exemplary gentleman who is beloved by his peers and fans, Ray Benson has received numerous awards for his remarkable musical talents, and he equally deserves accolades for his volunteerism and his generous assistance to those in need; he will receive his well-deserved award as Texan of the Year on March 24 at a special reception in his honor in New Braunfels; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 82nd Legislature, hereby commend Ray Benson on his unique musical talents, his generous spirit, and his outstanding community leadership and extend congratulations to him on earning the 2011 Texan of the Year award; and, be it further

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RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for him as an expression of highest esteem from the Texas Senate.

Wentworth

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the
above Resolution was adopted by
the Senate on March 22, 2011.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate