

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 715

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join the Harris County Historical Commission in celebrating the dedication of a Texas Historical Marker for Peacock Records, which is taking place April 16, 2011; and

WHEREAS, In 1949, a decade before the birth of Motown Records, Houston nightclub owner Don D. Robey created Peacock Records, a label dedicated to showcasing and promoting African American musicians; these artists were formerly relegated to a designation known as race music regardless of musical genre; and

WHEREAS, With blues legend Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown as his first artist, Mr. Robey sidestepped the usual race music description and marketing strategy applied to African American musicians and began an effort to market the music to a wider audience; and

WHEREAS, Through the years, he was able to acquire other record companies, including Duke Records, and he added such notable artists to his label as Willie Mae "Big Mama" Thornton, Johnny Ace, and the gospel group Bells of Joy; and

WHEREAS, Don D. Robey broke new ground in expanding opportunities for African American musicians while exposing their music to a wider audience; his contributions to the rich cultural heritage of our nation are truly deserving of recognition; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 82nd Legislature, hereby join the Harris County Historical Commission in celebrating the legacy of Don D. Robey and Peacock Records and extend best wishes for a memorable Texas Historical Marker dedication ceremony; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of this special occasion.

Ellis

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 6, 2011.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate