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H.R. No. 35

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The year 2014 marks the 24th anniversary of the
2 death of Stevie Ray Vaughan, and this milestone provides a fitting
3 opportunity to reflect on the life and music of this Texas guitar
4 legend; and

5 WHEREAS, In the early morning hours of August 27, 1990, Mr.
6 Vaughan, then just 35 years of age, was killed in a helicopter crash
7 following a concert in Wisconsin; while his tragic death robbed the
8 world of a tremendous talent, it could not diminish the many
9 achievements this gifted musician realized during his short but
10 brilliant career; and

11 WHEREAS, The pride of Oak Cliff, Stevie Ray was born in that
12 Dallas community in 1954 and began playing in area bands while still
13 a student in junior high school; at age 17, he headed for Austin,
14 developing his explosive, blues-based style in the city's music
15 clubs; his years of hard work began to pay off after he began
16 performing with his legendary backup group, Double Trouble, in the
17 early 1980s; he got his first widespread exposure when he played
18 guitar on the David Bowie album *Let 's Dance*, and he released his own
19 debut, *Texas Flood*, in 1983 to rave reviews; and

20 WHEREAS, Over the next seven years, Stevie Ray Vaughan
21 claimed his spot as one of the most influential rock and blues
22 guitarists of all time, with his smoldering fret work inspiring
23 everyone from music superstars to kids trying to learn their first
24 chords; all five albums he released during his lifetime became

1 million sellers, and his artistry was recognized with five Grammy
2 Awards, two of which were bestowed after his death; he also received
3 numerous other honors, and he and Double Trouble sold out concert
4 halls around the globe; and

5 WHEREAS, In addition to his professional success, this
6 revered musician was able to overcome his addiction to drugs and
7 alcohol in the mid-1980s, and in the years that followed, he lent a
8 helping hand to other musicians who struggled with substance abuse;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Stevie Ray Vaughan's popularity has endured in the
11 decades since his passing, with younger generations embracing his
12 masterful guitar playing and heartfelt singing; fiery, evocative,
13 and full of Texas soul, his music has earned a special place in the
14 annals of American popular culture and is a source of pride and joy
15 for countless residents of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be
16 it

17 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
18 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby pay tribute to the legacy
19 of Stevie Ray Vaughan on the 24th anniversary of his death and honor
20 his contributions to our state's rich musical heritage.