

By: Price

H.R. No. 223

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The death of acclaimed songwriter Bill Dees on
2 October 24, 2012, at the age of 73, brought a great loss to the music
3 world and profoundly saddened his family and friends; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Electra on January 24, 1939, William Marvin
5 Dees was the son of Beecher and Dorine Dees; he grew up in Borger and
6 showed talent at an early age, singing harmony with his brothers on
7 an Amarillo radio show and winning a gold watch at the county fair
8 in the third grade for his rendition of "I'm a Lonely Little Petunia
9 in an Onion Patch"; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Dees attended Phillips High School, where his
11 music teacher recruited him for a group called the Five Bops; after
12 scoring a regional hit with the song "Jitterbuggin'," the band was
13 chosen to open several local concerts for Roy Orbison, then a rising
14 star; Mr. Orbison later produced a recording session for Mr. Dees,
15 and the pair cowrote "Borne on the Wind," which became a top 5
16 single in the United Kingdom; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1964, Mr. Dees moved to Nashville and lined up
18 steady work before approaching Mr. Orbison about further
19 collaborations; they became songwriting partners and made the top
20 10 with the unusually sophisticated pop composition "It's Over";
21 building on that success, they wrote "Oh, Pretty Woman," which
22 reached the top of the charts in the United States and some 20 other
23 countries and became a rock and roll classic; Mr. Dees, who sang
24 harmony on the recording, gave up his day job to play keyboards in

1 Mr. Orbison's touring band for more than a year and appeared with
2 him on *The Ed Sullivan Show*; ultimately, the legendary singer
3 recorded nearly 70 songs cowritten with Mr. Dees, as well as several
4 numbers by Mr. Dees alone; and

5 WHEREAS, Other artists also recorded songs by Mr. Dees, among
6 them Loretta Lynn, Dinah Shore, Johnny Cash, Glen Campbell, and
7 Lynn Anderson; he continued to follow his muse and performed in his
8 own ensembles and as a solo act; in 2002, he released his first
9 album under his own name, *Saturday Night at the Movies*, which
10 featured three songs from his final writing sessions with his great
11 friend Mr. Orbison; he followed up with two more albums, and in
12 2006, he was honored by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame at "An Evening
13 With Bill Dees"; and

14 WHEREAS, Although he moved to the Ozarks in the 1970s, Mr.
15 Dees maintained strong Texas ties, and his buoyant personality
16 endeared him to countless residents of the New Boston area; he
17 shared many a funny story, new song, or favorite Bible verse with
18 delighted friends in the Lone Star State, and his ready smile and
19 frequent laughter brightened every encounter; and

20 WHEREAS, Bill Dees brought joy to people around the globe
21 through his musical talent, and those who were fortunate enough to
22 know this charming, warm, and generous man will forever remember
23 him with deepest admiration and affection; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
25 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Bill Dees and extend
26 sincere condolences to his loved ones; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for the members of his family and that when the Texas House
2 of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of William
3 Marvin Dees.