

By: Leach

H.R. No. 780

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Country superstar and native Texan George Strait has
2 embarked on an extended farewell tour, and it is indeed fitting to
3 honor him for his exceptional contributions to the lives of music
4 lovers across this state and nation; and

5 WHEREAS, Born in Poteet in 1952, Mr. Strait grew up on the
6 family farm in nearby Pearsall; he played in a rock band as a
7 teenager and then joined a country group while stationed in Hawaii
8 as a soldier in the United States Army; after returning to Texas, he
9 studied agriculture at Southwest Texas State University, and in
10 1975 he joined with several other San Marcos musicians to form Ace
11 in the Hole, which remains his backing band today; the group built a
12 strong regional following and recorded for a Dallas record label in
13 the 1970s; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Strait signed with MCA Records in 1980, and his
15 career took off the following year with the release of his first
16 single, "Unwound"; drawing on old-school honky-tonk and
17 western-swing styles, he helped bring country radio back to a more
18 traditional sound with such massive hits as "All My Ex's Live in
19 Texas," "Am I Blue," and a cover of the Bob Wills classic "Right or
20 Wrong"; during the 1980s, he consistently occupied the top slot on
21 the album charts, and he was named the 1989 and 1990 Entertainer of
22 the Year by the Country Music Association; and

23 WHEREAS, In 1992, Mr. Strait made his silver screen debut in
24 the movie *Pure Country*; meanwhile, his popularity as a recording

1 artist remained as strong as ever; his four-disc retrospective
2 *Strait Out of the Box* became one of the biggest-selling box sets in
3 popular music history, and in 1996 the album *Blue Clear Sky* debuted
4 in the Top 10 on the pop as well as the country charts; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Strait has continued to rack up hits, awards,
6 and critical acclaim; in 2009, he won the Best Country Album Grammy
7 for *Troubadour*, and the next year, he was named the top country
8 artist of the past quarter-century by the Billboard Music Awards;
9 he has been inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, and he is a
10 recipient of the National Medal of the Arts; today, the numerous
11 sold-out shows on "The Cowboy Rides Away" tour are a testament to
12 his enduring appeal as a performer; and

13 WHEREAS, Although he will soon be parking the tour bus for
14 good, George Strait intends to keep recording his outstanding brand
15 of country music, and that fact is welcome news to the many people
16 in the Lone Star State and beyond who have become ardent fans of his
17 work over the course of his more than three decades in the music
18 industry; now, therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
20 Legislature hereby congratulate George Strait on his remarkable
21 career and honor him for his tremendous contributions to American
22 music and culture; and, be it further

23 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
24 prepared for Mr. Strait as an expression of high regard by the Texas
25 House of Representatives.