

By: Gutierrez

H.R. No. 1371

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The Barbershop Harmony Society, a national  
2 organization formerly known as the Society for the Preservation and  
3 Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, is  
4 celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2013; and

5           WHEREAS, During the last half of the 19th century, the  
6 barbershop served as a gathering place in many communities, and as  
7 men waited their turn in the barber's chair, they often sang  
8 together; over time, these informal performances developed into a  
9 style of close, four-part, a cappella harmonizing; usually made up  
10 of a bass, a lead singer, a baritone, and a tenor, the performers in  
11 barbershop quartets came to be known for their matching boater  
12 hats, striped vests, and colorful jackets, and many barbershop  
13 songs became standards, including "Hello, My Baby," "Shine On,  
14 Harvest Moon," and "Sweet Adeline"; and

15           WHEREAS, By the 1920s, the style ebbed in popularity, but in  
16 1938, two men in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Owen Clifton Cash and Rupert Hall,  
17 invited some other barbershop singers to join them for a singing  
18 luncheon on the roof garden of the Tulsa Club on April 11, 1938;  
19 although the 26 singers drew complaints from other club members for  
20 their "noise," the meeting resulted in the creation of the  
21 SPEBSQSA; and

22           WHEREAS, The organization has since grown to include nearly  
23 25,000 members in 800 chapters in all 50 states and each of the 10  
24 provinces of Canada, as well as 4,000 affiliate members in 10 other

1 countries; the society has been largely responsible for securing  
2 the place of the barbershop style of singing in our musical  
3 heritage, and all across the nation, amateur and professional  
4 quartets and choruses continue to perform; famous barbershop  
5 quartets include the Buffalo Bills, who made a memorable appearance  
6 in the film *The Music Man*, and the Dapper Dans, who perform  
7 regularly at Disneyland and Disney World and who have appeared on an  
8 episode of *The Simpsons*; and

9       WHEREAS, More than 1,000 Texans are members of the Barbershop  
10 Harmony Society, and the Lone Star State boasts 13 International  
11 Chorus champions, including the 11-time champion Vocal Majority  
12 from Dallas, as well as 8 International Quartet champions, 4  
13 International presidents, 3 International Seniors Quartet  
14 champions, and a Youth Chorus Festival winner; Texas has also been  
15 the site of four International Conventions of the group; and

16       WHEREAS, One of the few distinctively American singing  
17 styles, barbershop harmony continues to energize its practitioners  
18 and delight audiences of all ages, and this special anniversary  
19 represents a fitting opportunity to celebrate this unique art form;  
20 now, therefore, be it

21       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
22 Legislature hereby recognize April 7 through 13, 2013, as  
23 Barbershop Harmony Week in Texas.