

By: White

H.R. No. 2072

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Country music fans in the Lone Star State and around  
2 the world bid farewell to a legendary performer with the passing of  
3 George Jones on April 26, 2013, at the age of 81; and

4 WHEREAS, A proud son of East Texas, Mr. Jones was born on  
5 September 12, 1931, in Saratoga and grew up in Beaumont, where he  
6 began playing music on the city's street corners shortly after  
7 receiving his first guitar at age nine; he cut his first record in  
8 1954 and scored his initial hit the following year with "Why, Baby,  
9 Why?"; and

10 WHEREAS, He followed with a phenomenal run of country songs  
11 that would become classics of the genre, all rendered in a voice  
12 that managed to combine immense range and nuance with  
13 heart-wrenching expressiveness; from honky-tonk stompers, such as  
14 "White Lightning" and "The Race Is On," to moving stories of  
15 heartbreak, like "The Window Up Above" and "She Thinks I Still  
16 Care," he managed to record at least one top-10 hit each year  
17 between 1958 and 1971; and

18 WHEREAS, Further success followed in the 1970s and 1980s, as  
19 he climbed the charts with the many duets he recorded with his wife,  
20 Tammy Wynette, while also delivering exquisite lovelorn ballads as  
21 a solo artist, including "He Stopped Loving Her Today" and "If  
22 Drinkin' Don't Kill Me (Her Memory Will)"; fame took its toll,  
23 however, and for a time, Mr. Jones became notorious for living out  
24 his tragic songs of excess and despair; happily, he found his way to

1 a more stable way of life, and his career continued into the 21st  
2 century with new albums and a steady schedule of concert dates; at  
3 the time of his death, he was in the midst of a farewell tour, which  
4 drew legions of admirers to shows around the nation; and

5 WHEREAS, Revered throughout the music world, Mr. Jones was  
6 lauded by performers as diverse as Frank Sinatra and Keith  
7 Richards, and his artistry earned some of the most prestigious  
8 accolades in the industry; he was inducted into the Country Music  
9 Hall of Fame, received the National Medal of the Arts, was selected  
10 as a Kennedy Center honoree, and accepted a Grammy Lifetime  
11 Achievement Award in 2012; and

12 WHEREAS, George Jones was also the recipient of a less formal  
13 but perhaps more profound tribute: he was widely regarded as one of  
14 the greatest singers in the history of country music, and that  
15 legacy is certain to endure; while his departure from the stage  
16 brings great sadness to all who have appreciated his work through  
17 the decades, it also provides an opportunity to reflect on his  
18 incomparable career and to recognize his contributions to the rich  
19 musical tradition of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
21 Legislature hereby honor the life of George Jones and extend  
22 deepest sympathy to all those who mourn his passing; and, be it  
23 further

24 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
25 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
26 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of George  
27 Jones.