

By: Hughes

H.R. No. 2689

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, A full and remarkable life drew to a close with the  
2 passing of acclaimed gospel singer George Beverly Shea on April 16,  
3 2013, at the age of 104; and

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Shea was born on February 1, 1909, in  
5 Winchester, Ontario, to the Reverend A. J. Shea and Maude Whitney  
6 Shea; he grew up singing in his father's church and attended  
7 Annesley College and Houghton College; after concluding his  
8 studies, he took a job as a clerk and also worked in broadcasting,  
9 later becoming an announcer and staff soloist at radio station WMBI  
10 in Chicago; it was there that a young pastor named Billy Graham  
11 asked him to sing on the radio program "Songs in the Night,"  
12 beginning a professional collaboration between the two that would  
13 ultimately span six decades; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1947, Mr. Shea traveled to Charlotte, North  
15 Carolina, to sing in one of Reverend Graham's first citywide  
16 crusades, and he went on to perform at events with the well-known  
17 evangelist until the early 2000s; he was also a prolific recording  
18 artist and composer who released over 70 albums of sacred music and  
19 wrote such songs as "I'd Rather Have Jesus"; widely respected by his  
20 peers, he received 10 Grammy nominations, a Grammy Award, and a  
21 Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, among a host of other accolades;  
22 in addition, he was inducted into the Gospel Music Association Hall  
23 of Fame, the National Religious Broadcasters Hall of Fame, and the  
24 Hall of Faith of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, George Beverly Shea brought joy to innumerable  
3 people by sharing his deep faith through song, and his recorded  
4 legacy will remain a source of inspiration in the years to come;  
5 now, therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas  
7 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of George Beverly Shea  
8 and extend sincere condolences to the members of his family: to his  
9 wife, Karlene Shea; to his son, Ronald Shea, and his wife, Kathy; to  
10 his daughter, Elaine Anderson; to his granddaughter, Tamara  
11 Anderson; to his brother, Alton Shea; to his sister, Ruth Willett;  
12 to his stepchildren and their spouses, Steve and Fran Aceto and  
13 Nanci and Jack Edwards; to his step-grandchildren and their  
14 spouses, Ben and Tiffany Aceto and their children, Kylie Aceto and  
15 Knox Hampton Aceto, Bill and Sallie Aceto, Matheson and Jeff White,  
16 and Ellis Edwards; and to his other relatives and friends; and, be  
17 it further

18 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
19 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of  
20 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of George  
21 Beverly Shea.