

By: Naishtat

H.R. No. 3031

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Acclaimed folksinger Peter Yarrow is celebrating
2 his 75th birthday with a performance at the Kerrville Folk Festival
3 on May 31, 2013, to the delight of his many fans; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Manhattan in 1938, Mr. Yarrow graduated from
5 the High School of Music and Art and went on to complete his
6 bachelor's degree in psychology at Cornell University; he formed
7 Peter, Paul and Mary with Mary Travers and Noel Paul Stookey in
8 1961, and the following year, their self-titled debut went directly
9 to number one on the *Billboard* charts; the album kept its place in
10 the Top 10 for 10 months; and

11 WHEREAS, The group reached the number two slot with its
12 sophomore release, and its third album retook the top spot on the
13 charts; through the years, Mr. Yarrow wrote or cowrote many of the
14 trio's most famous songs, among them "Puff (the Magic Dragon),"
15 "Day is Done," "Light One Candle," and "The Great Mandela"; he also
16 cowrote and produced the Mary McGregor hit "Torn Between Two
17 Lovers"; and

18 WHEREAS, Peter, Paul and Mary exemplified the folk movement's
19 dedication to social justice, and the performers participated in
20 two historic civil rights protests led by Dr. Martin Luther King,
21 the 1963 March on Washington and the march in Selma, Alabama, two
22 years later; Mr. Yarrow was particularly active in the peace
23 movement and in support of Soviet Jewry, and he formed Operation
24 Respect, a renowned anti-bullying organization, after hearing the

1 song "Don't Laugh at Me" at the Kerrville Folk Festival; the United
2 States Congress recognized Operation Respect for its "Don't Laugh
3 at Me" programs and curricula, which have been used in thousands of
4 classes across the country; and

5 WHEREAS, Nurturing the next generation of musicians, Mr.
6 Yarrow helped found the New Folk Concerts program at the Newport
7 Folk Festival and the Kerrville Folk Festival, and many talented
8 singer-songwriters have since launched their careers through New
9 Folk performances; himself a mainstay of the Kerrville Folk
10 Festival, Mr. Yarrow has performed frequently at the event over the
11 past four decades, oftentimes on his birthday; and

12 WHEREAS, Peter Yarrow has brought joy to innumerable people
13 through his wonderful music, and this milestone in his life offers a
14 welcome opportunity to express appreciation for his myriad
15 contributions; now, therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 83rd Texas
17 Legislature hereby recognize Peter Yarrow as a "Texan by Choice"
18 and congratulate him on the memorable occasion of his 75th
19 birthday; and, be it further

20 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
21 prepared for Mr. Yarrow as an expression of high regard by the Texas
22 House of Representatives.