

By: Anderson of McLennan

H.R. No. 3022

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The State of Texas lost one of its most admired
2 musicians with the passing of fiddle virtuoso Johnny Gimble of
3 Dripping Springs on May 9, 2015, at the age of 88; and

4 WHEREAS, Born in Tyler on May 30, 1926, John Paul Gimble began
5 performing with his brothers as a boy, and they appeared regularly
6 on a local radio show; his talent soon took him to Louisiana, where
7 he backed the Shelton Brothers on KWKH in Shreveport and played
8 tenor banjo in the campaign band of Jimmie Davis, the popular
9 country singer and future governor of Louisiana; during World War
10 II, he served in Europe with the United States Army; and

11 WHEREAS, Mr. Gimble joined the legendary Bob Wills and His
12 Texas Playboys in 1949, and he played on their 1950 hit "Faded
13 Love"; when the king of Western swing relocated to California,
14 Mr. Gimble stayed in Dallas, leading the Bob Wills Ranch House Band
15 and recording with Marty Robbins, Lefty Frizzell, and Ray Price at a
16 prominent local studio; he also performed on *The Big D Jamboree*
17 variety show; and

18 WHEREAS, Subsequently, Mr. Gimble and his wife, Barbara,
19 moved to Waco to raise their three children, Cyndi, Gay, and Dick;
20 he hosted a weekly television variety show, *Johnny Gimble and the*
21 *Homefolks*, and supplemented his income as a barber; in 1968, he
22 relocated to Nashville, and his distinctive sound, improvisational
23 skill, and extraordinary versatility, on mandolin as well as
24 fiddle, made him a top session player; he recorded with everyone

1 from Merle Haggard, Charley Pride, Connie Smith, and Dolly Parton
2 to the Everly Brothers, Paul McCartney, and Rosemary Clooney; he
3 was a member of the *Hee Haw* Million Dollar Band, and Chet Atkins
4 featured him on the all-star album *Superpickers*; in 1974,
5 Mr. Gimble released *Fiddlin' Around*, the first of many solo albums;
6 his popular compositions included "Under the X in Texas," which
7 would become the theme song for a long-running show by that name on
8 Austin radio station KOOP; and

9 WHEREAS, Mr. Gimble returned to Texas in the late 1970s and
10 settled in Dripping Springs; he joined Willie Nelson's band, and he
11 recorded with George Strait, Guy Clark, Asleep at the Wheel, and a
12 host of others; among the myriad accolades he won were two Grammy
13 Awards, five Country Music Association Instrumentalist of the Year
14 Awards, and nine consecutive Academy of Country Music Awards; he
15 started giving his trophies away to younger musicians to encourage
16 them, and when the National Endowment of the Arts conferred on him a
17 National Heritage Fellowship, entailing \$10,000, he joked: "Can I
18 pay it in installments?"; and

19 WHEREAS, Over the years, the affable Mr. Gimble was a
20 frequent guest on the NPR series *A Prairie Home Companion*, and he
21 appeared on public television's *Austin City Limits* more times than
22 any other musician; he led a band with his son, Dick, on bass, and
23 his granddaughter, Emily, on piano and vocals, and he and his son
24 conducted fiddle and guitar camps; he suffered a stroke on
25 Christmas Eve in 1999 but continued to perform and teach, and in
26 2010, he released *Johnny Gimble: Celebrating with Friends*, graced
27 by such guest vocalists as Merle Haggard, Willie Nelson, and Vince

1 Gill; and

2 WHEREAS, Johnny Gimble brought joy to innumerable people, and
3 he influenced generations of musicians; although he will be deeply
4 missed, he leaves behind a legacy that will be forever treasured by
5 music fans across the Lone Star State and beyond; now, therefore, be
6 it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
8 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Johnny Gimble and
9 extend sincere condolences to his loved ones; and, be it further

10 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
11 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
12 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Johnny
13 Gimble.