

By: Leach

H.R. No. 122

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Legendary singer and songwriter Don Henley is
2 celebrating his 70th birthday on July 22, 2017, by performing a
3 concert at the American Airlines Center in Dallas; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of C. J. and Hughlene Henley, Donald Hugh
5 Henley was born in Gilmer in 1947 and raised in Linden; he first
6 became involved in music while attending Linden-Kildare High
7 School, where he played trombone and drums in the marching band;
8 during that time, he also formed a garage band, the Four Speeds,
9 with his friends Richard Bowden and Jerry Surratt; after graduating
10 from high school in 1965, he enrolled at Stephen F. Austin State
11 University and later transferred to North Texas State University;
12 over the years, he continued to maintain his band, even as it
13 underwent several name and personnel changes, and the group
14 eventually caught the attention of Kenny Rogers, who helped it
15 record its first single, "Jennifer"; the band was renamed Shiloh
16 soon thereafter, and it went on to release its self-titled debut on
17 Amos Records; Mr. Henley eventually left the ensemble to become a
18 backup musician for Linda Ronstadt; and

19 WHEREAS, In the fall of 1971, Mr. Henley joined with Glenn
20 Frey, Randy Meisner, and Bernie Leadon to found a new group, the
21 Eagles, and their ability to meld country, folk, rock, and pop
22 influences quickly gained them an impressive following; the next
23 year, the quartet released its self-titled debut, which featured
24 three hit songs, "Take It Easy," "Witchy Woman," and "Peaceful Easy

1 Feeling," and the rest is history; the band went on to record five
2 more albums that decade, *Desperado*, *On the Border*, *One of These*
3 *Nights*, *Hotel California*, and *The Long Run*, and along the way, it
4 topped the charts five times, received four Grammy Awards, and
5 became one of the hottest touring music acts in the world; the band
6 was also the first ever to sell more than 10 million copies of two
7 separate albums, *Hotel California* and the 1976 compilation *Eagles:*
8 *Their Greatest Hits 1971-1975*, which eventually surpassed Michael
9 Jackson's *Thriller* as the best-selling album of all time in the
10 United States; to date, more than 120 million of the group's records
11 have been sold worldwide; and

12 WHEREAS, After the Eagles disbanded in the early 1980s,
13 Mr. Henley launched the next act of his career by becoming a solo
14 artist; he scored a hit song with "Dirty Laundry" on his 1982 debut,
15 *I Can't Stand Still*, and he expanded on that success with his
16 sophomore effort, 1984's *Building the Perfect Beast*, which yielded
17 four popular singles, "All She Wants to Do Is Dance," "Not Enough
18 Love in the World," "Sunset Grill," and "The Boys of Summer," and
19 which garnered him a Grammy Award for Best Male Rock Vocal
20 Performance as well as nominations for Record, Song, and Producer
21 of the Year; the decade culminated for him with his 1989 album, *The*
22 *End of the Innocence*, whose title track notched him another Grammy
23 for best rock vocal; in 1994, he reunited with the Eagles for a
24 massive tour, which produced the live album *Hell Freezes Over*; he
25 went on to sign with the Warner Bros. label and release his fourth
26 solo album, *Inside Job*, in 2000, and seven years later, he reentered
27 the studio with the Eagles to record the band's final album, *Long*

1 *Road Out of Eden*; he eventually returned to solo work with his 2015
2 album, *Cass County*; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Henley has long been committed to using his
4 immense talent to effect positive change; in 1990, he founded the
5 Walden Woods Project, which is dedicated to preserving the land
6 made famous in Henry David Thoreau's eponymous book; three years
7 later, he released the country tribute album *Common Thread: The*
8 *Songs of the Eagles*, which not only won the 1994 Album of the Year
9 from the Country Music Association but also generated more than \$3
10 million in proceeds to support his initiative; moreover, he
11 cofounded the nonprofit Caddo Lake Institute in 1993 and the
12 Recording Artists' Coalition in 2000, and he has helped to raise
13 funds for numerous organizations, including Farm Aid, the Race to
14 Erase MS, the Rhythm and Blues Foundation, and the Rainforest
15 Foundation; in recognition of his efforts, he was named the 2007
16 MusiCares Person of the Year by the MusiCares Foundation; and

17 WHEREAS, Over the course of his extraordinary career, Don
18 Henley has established himself as one of the kings of classic rock;
19 his music continues to touch the lives of millions of fans across
20 generations, and this special milestone in his life presents a
21 welcome opportunity to honor this notable Texan; now, therefore, be
22 it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
24 Legislature, 1st Called Session, hereby congratulate Don Henley on
25 the occasion of his 70th birthday and extend to him sincere best
26 wishes for continued success and happiness; and, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be

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1 prepared for Mr. Henley as an expression of high regard by the Texas
2 House of Representatives.