

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, The retirement of Joseph Ralph DeWitt IV, proprietor  
2 of Ralph's Records for more than 36 years, marks the end of an era  
3 for the Lubbock music scene; and

4           WHEREAS, The son of Joseph Ralph DeWitt III and Norma DeWitt,  
5 Ralph DeWitt was born in Houston in 1952; he spent some of his youth  
6 in San Antonio and Chicago before graduating from Monterrey High  
7 School in Lubbock; while studying business management at Texas Tech  
8 University, he paid for his studies by working in a grocery store,  
9 driving a cab, delivering newspapers, and working as a nightclub  
10 DJ; he also honed his entrepreneurial skills by buying and selling  
11 used cars, venturing into concert promotion, and investing in  
12 residential and commercial properties; and

13           WHEREAS, Mr. DeWitt was also an avid record collector, and in  
14 1980, he realized his dream of turning his hobby into a business; he  
15 opened Ralph's Records in a small space on University Avenue, and  
16 within two years, he was able to expand; for a time, he also ran  
17 shops in Oklahoma City and Amarillo, as well as a second location in  
18 Lubbock; the store has operated at its current 82nd Street address  
19 since 1991; and

20           WHEREAS, Fostering a friendly, laid-back atmosphere that  
21 customers loved, Mr. DeWitt always hired musicians and fellow music  
22 fans and encouraged them to share their knowledge, ideas, and  
23 opinions; the industry changed dramatically over the years, but he  
24 was able to adapt, adding such items as CDs, DVDs, and video games;

1 all the while, he retained his allegiance to vinyl records, and he  
2 was ready to take full advantage of the revival of the format in the  
3 current decade; through the years, he has also been a steadfast  
4 supporter of live music in the city; and

5 WHEREAS, Devoted to his family, Mr. DeWitt has benefited in  
6 all his endeavors from the encouragement of his wife, Polly, his  
7 children, Allison and Joey, and his mother, Norma, as well as his  
8 four siblings; and

9 WHEREAS, Ralph DeWitt has set a sterling example of  
10 entrepreneurship while making vital contributions to the Lubbock  
11 music scene, and as he embarks on the next exciting chapter of his  
12 life, he may reflect with justifiable pride on his accomplishments;  
13 now, therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
15 Legislature hereby congratulate Joseph Ralph DeWitt IV on his  
16 retirement as proprietor of Ralph's Records and extend to him  
17 sincere best wishes for continued happiness; and, be it further

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

Frullo

H.R. No. 116

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 116 was adopted by the House on  
January 25, 2017, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House