

By: Frullo

H.R. No. 116

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.