

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Pianist Bobbie Nelson has been playing music for  
2 virtually her entire life, and today, after nearly eight decades as  
3 a performer, she is continuing to enrich the proud musical legacy of  
4 Texas; and

5           WHEREAS, Bobbie Nelson was born on New Year's Day 1931 in  
6 Abbott; her parents divorced early in her childhood, and she and her  
7 younger brother, Willie, were raised by their grandparents, William  
8 and Nancy Nelson, who instilled in both children a deep love of  
9 music; at the age of five, she learned to play keyboards from her  
10 grandmother, first on the family pump organ and later on a piano her  
11 grandfather bought for \$35; after her brother learned the guitar,  
12 the siblings began performing gospel songs together at school  
13 events and at the local Methodist church; and

14           WHEREAS, In her early teens, Ms. Nelson got her start as a  
15 touring musician, playing piano on the revival circuit with a  
16 traveling preacher; at 16, she married Bud Fletcher, who organized  
17 and managed the Nelson siblings' first band, Bud Fletcher and the  
18 Texans; she and her husband became the parents of three sons, but  
19 after their marriage ended, she lost custody of her children for a  
20 time because the courts disapproved of her occupation of playing  
21 music in honky-tonks; her career was put on hold as she fought to  
22 reunite her family, though she was able to put her talents to use  
23 after being hired as a demonstrator for the Hammond Organ Company;  
24 following stints in Fort Worth and Austin, she relocated to

1 Nashville to be near her brother, who had begun building a  
2 reputation as one of country music's best songwriters; both Bobbie  
3 and Willie returned to Texas in the early 1970s and have considered  
4 themselves Austinites ever since; and

5       WHEREAS, Ms. Nelson started performing on her brother's  
6 recordings, including his 1975 breakthrough album *Red Headed*  
7 *Stranger*; through the decades, "Sister Bobbie," as Willie  
8 affectionately calls her, has also been a key member of his touring  
9 band, Family, delighting audiences with her skill in a variety of  
10 musical idioms; in 2007, she released her first solo album, a  
11 collection of pop and country standards called *Audiobiography*, and  
12 in 2014, she and her brother released *December Day*, an album  
13 inspired by their informal jam sessions on the tour bus; and

14       WHEREAS, From her early days of playing the pump organ in her  
15 grandparents' parlor to her performances in recording studios and  
16 on concert stages around the world, Bobbie Nelson has built a  
17 sterling reputation as a skilled and intuitive keyboard player, and  
18 her role as an integral member of Willie Nelson and Family has  
19 earned her an honored place among the beloved musicians of the Lone  
20 Star State; now, therefore, be it

21       RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas  
22 Legislature hereby commend Bobbie Nelson for her long and  
23 illustrious career and for her contributions to Texas music; and,  
24 be it further

H.R. No. 564

1           RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
2 prepared for Ms. Nelson as an expression of high regard by the Texas  
3 House of Representatives.

Raymond

Straus	Goldman	Oliverson
Allen	Gonzales of Williamson	Ortega
Alonzo	González of El Paso	Paddie
Alvarado	Gooden	Parker
Anchia	Guerra	Paul
Anderson of Dallas	Guillen	Perez
Anderson of McLennan	Gutierrez	Phelan
Arévalo	Hefner	Phillips
Ashby	Hernandez	Pickett
Bailes	Herrero	Price
Bell	Hinojosa	Raney
Bernal	Holland	Raymond
Biedermann	Howard	Reynolds
Blanco	Huberty	Rinaldi
Bohac	Hunter	Roberts
Bonnen of Brazoria	Isaac	Rodriguez of Bexar
Bonnen of Galveston	Israel	Rodriguez of Travis
Burkett	Johnson of Dallas	Romero, Jr.
Burns	Johnson of Harris	Rose
Burrows	Kacal	Sanford
Button	Keough	Schaefer
Cain	King of Hemphill	Schofield
Canales	King of Parker	Schubert
Capriglione	King of Uvalde	Shaheen
Clardy	Klick	Sheffield
Coleman	Koop	Shine
Collier	Krause	Simmons
Cook	Kuempel	Smithee
Cortez	Lambert	Springer
Cosper	Landgraf	Stephenson
Craddick	Lang	Stickland
Cyrier	Larson	Stucky
Dale	Laubenberg	Swanson
Darby	Leach	Thierry
Davis of Dallas	Longoria	Thompson of Brazoria
Davis of Harris	Lozano	Thompson of Harris
Dean	Lucio III	Tinderholt
Deshotel	Martinez	Turner
Dukes	Metcalf	Uresti
Dutton	Meyer	VanDeaver
Elkins	Miller	Villalba
Faircloth	Minjarez	Vo
Fallon	Moody	Walle
Farrar	Morrison	White
Flynn	Muñoz, Jr.	Wilson
Frank	Murphy	Workman
Frullo	Murr	Wray
Geren	Neave	Wu
Gervin-Hawkins	Nevárez	Zedler
Giddings	Oliveira	Zerwas

H.R. No. 564

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 564 was adopted by the House on February 23, 2017, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House