

By: Alonzo

H.R. No. 1555

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The year 2017 marks the 27th anniversary of the
2 death of Stevie Ray Vaughan, and this milestone provides a fitting
3 opportunity to reflect on the life and music of this Texas guitar
4 legend; and

5 WHEREAS, In the early morning hours of August 27, 1990,
6 Mr. Vaughan, then just 35 years of age, was killed in a helicopter
7 crash following a concert in Wisconsin; while his tragic death
8 robbed the world of a tremendous talent, it could not diminish the
9 many achievements this gifted musician realized during his brief
10 but brilliant career; and

11 WHEREAS, The pride of Oak Cliff, Stevie Ray Vaughan was born
12 in that Dallas community in 1954 and began playing in area bands
13 while still a student in junior high school; at age 17, he headed
14 for Austin, developing his explosive, blues-based style in the
15 city's music clubs; his years of hard work started to pay off after
16 he began performing with his legendary backup group, Double
17 Trouble, in the early 1980s; he got his first widespread exposure
18 when he played guitar on the David Bowie album *Let's Dance*, and he
19 released his own debut, *Texas Flood*, in 1983 to rave reviews; and

20 WHEREAS, Over the next seven years, Stevie Ray Vaughan
21 claimed his spot as one of the most influential rock and blues
22 guitarists of all time, with his smoldering fret work inspiring
23 everyone from music superstars to kids trying to learn their first
24 chords; all five albums he released during his lifetime became

1 million sellers, and his artistry was recognized with five Grammy
2 Awards, two of which were bestowed after his death; he also received
3 numerous other honors, and he and Double Trouble sold out concert
4 halls around the globe; and

5 WHEREAS, In addition to achieving professional success, this
6 revered musician was able to overcome his addiction to drugs and
7 alcohol in the mid-1980s, and in the years that followed, he lent a
8 helping hand to other musicians who struggled with substance abuse;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, A monument memorializing Stevie Ray Vaughan and his
11 brother and fellow blues icon Jimmie Vaughan is being erected in
12 2017 by the City of Dallas in Kiest Park, where the two often played
13 in their youth; the sculpture consists of four COR-TEN steel-framed
14 screens, with each panel displaying pictures of the hometown heroes
15 and their song lyrics cut into the metal; and

16 WHEREAS, Stevie Ray Vaughan's popularity has endured in the
17 decades since his passing, with younger generations embracing his
18 masterful guitar playing and heartfelt singing; fiery, evocative,
19 and full of Texas soul, his music has earned a special place in the
20 annals of American popular culture and is a source of pride and joy
21 for countless residents of the Lone Star State; now, therefore, be
22 it

23 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
24 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life and music of Stevie Ray
25 Vaughan on the 27th anniversary of his death and honor his
26 contributions to our state's rich musical heritage.