

By: Johnson of Harris

H.R. No. 1434

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Benard Ighner of Houston, composer of the timeless
2 classic "Everything Must Change," passed away on August 14, 2017,
3 at the age of 72; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Erma and Booker T. Ighner, Benard Ighner
5 was born in the Bayou City on January 18, 1945, and grew up with four
6 siblings, Jo Carole, Sondra, Anita, and Keith; although he had no
7 formal training, he demonstrated musical talent at an early age and
8 learned how to play piano, guitar, bass, and drums, as well as a
9 number of wind instruments; he graduated from Yates High School and
10 moved to San Diego, California, with his family before enlisting in
11 the U.S. Army; and

12 WHEREAS, After serving his country in Germany, Mr. Ighner
13 returned to California and met Dizzy Gillespie at the home of his
14 older sister; the jazz legend was so impressed by his rich baritone
15 voice that he invited him to tour and record with his band;
16 subsequently, he introduced Mr. Ighner to composer Lalo Schifrin,
17 who featured him on the album *Rock Requiem*, and they cowrote "Like
18 Me," featured on the *Dirty Harry* soundtrack; later, they teamed for
19 an orchestral performance and album with Sarah Vaughan; and

20 WHEREAS, Quincy Jones received a demo of Mr. Ighner's
21 composition "Everything Must Change" and asked him to sing it on his
22 1974 album *Body Heat*; the LP soared to the top of the charts, and the
23 haunting melody became a standard, covered by everyone from
24 vocalists Nina Simone, Randy Crawford, and Barbra Streisand to jazz

1 musicians Lester Bowie, Archie Shepp, and David "Fathead" Newman;
2 Mr. Ighner eventually recorded a new version of the song on his only
3 solo album, *Little Dreamer*, which featured his brother, Keith, on
4 bass; he also appeared with his sister, Sondra, on a Sergio Mendes
5 album that featured two of his songs, "You Been Away Too Long" and
6 "Davy"; superstar Shirley Bassey flew to Los Angeles to record
7 "Davy" with him as a duet, and the tune appeared alongside other
8 Ighner compositions on the popular soul-jazz album he produced for
9 Marlena Shaw; over the years, many others recorded his work, and he
10 sang harmony vocals for James Taylor, Jimmy Smith, and other
11 artists and performed for commercials; and

12 WHEREAS, Kind, gentle, and enormously gifted, Benard Ighner
13 brought joy to innumerable people, and he left a musical legacy for
14 all to treasure; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas
16 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the memory of Benard Ighner and
17 extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his passing; and, be it
18 further

19 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
20 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
21 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Benard
22 Ighner.