

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 555

WHEREAS, For nearly half a century, progressive country icon Gary P. Nunn has been a standard-bearer for Texas music; and

WHEREAS, Born in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, in 1945, Mr. Nunn moved to Brownfield with his family in the sixth grade and soon joined a garage band; later, while studying pharmacy at The University of Texas at Austin, he played keyboards in a local supergroup, the Lavender Hill Express; he became one of the progenitors of Austin's "cosmic cowboy" movement, playing bass, keyboards, and guitar with Willie Nelson, Michael Martin Murphey, and others; as a key member of Jerry Jeff Walker's Lost Gonzo Band, he recorded six albums in four years and contributed the hit "London Homesick Blues," an ode to Texas that became a progressive country anthem and served for nearly three decades as the theme song for the PBS show *Austin City Limits*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nunn and the Gonzos released three critically acclaimed albums on their own, and in 1980, he launched his solo career; a trailblazer for Austin's independent music scene, he established his own label and publishing company, and he and his wife, Ruth, managed his career as he toured Europe and appeared on *Austin City Limits*, *Nashville Now*, and other television programs; his large catalogue includes "What I Like About Texas," which became the inspiration for a Texas Travel Industry Association campaign, and over the years, many artists have recorded his songs; Rosanne Cash climbed the country singles chart with "Couldn't Do Nothing Right," while Willie Nelson scored a No. 2 hit with "Last Thing I Needed, First Thing This Morning," which resurfaced on the 2018 Grammy Album of the Year by Chris Stapleton; that same year, Mr. Nunn showcased state pride on *Friends for Life*, a collection of

his duets with a cavalcade of stars, including Lyle Lovett and Robert Earl Keen; and

WHEREAS, Inducted into the Texas Hall of Fame in 2004, Mr. Nunn is also a member of the West Texas Walk of Fame; he was named Ambassador of Texas Music by Governor Rick Perry, and among numerous accolades, he received the Country Music Association of Texas Living Legend Award; dubbed "a Texas institution" by the authoritative *All Music Guide*, he holds a special place in the state's musical firmament and in the hearts of countless fans around the world; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 86th Legislature, hereby honor Gary P. Nunn for his outstanding contributions to music and extend to him sincere best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for Mr. Nunn as an expression of high regard by the Texas Senate.

Buckingham

Alvarado	Huffman	Perry
Bettencourt	Hughes	Powell
Birdwell	Johnson	Rodríguez
Campbell	Kolkhorst	Schwertner
Creighton	Lucio	Seliger
Fallon	Menéndez	Taylor
Flores	Miles	Watson
Hall	Nelson	West
Hancock	Nichols	Whitmire
Hinojosa	Paxton	Zaffirini

Patrick, President of the Senate

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on April 8, 2019.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate