87R7160 JGH-D

By:  Burrows H.R. No. 174

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, Music fans around the state and nation mourn the loss of the celebrated Texas singer and songwriter Mac Davis, who died on September 29, 2020, at the age of 78; and

WHEREAS, A native of Lubbock, Morris Mac Davis was born on January 21, 1942, to T. J. and Edith Davis, and he enjoyed the companionship of two siblings, Linda and Kim; after graduating from high school and joining his mother in Atlanta at the age of 16, he started performing with a local band, the Zots; and

WHEREAS, In 1961, Mr. Davis went to work for the Vee-Jay record company, and by 1966, he was a "plugger" for Liberty Records in Hollywood, pitching other songwriters' material to recording artists while also sneaking in demos of his own songs; soon he was writing for such artists as Nancy Sinatra, Bobby Goldsboro, and Kenny Rogers and the First Edition, and in 1968, Elvis Presley performed Mr. Davis's song "A Little Less Conversation" in the 1968 film *Live a Little, Love a Little*; he went on to write several more tracks for Presley, including the classic "In the Ghetto," which has since been recorded by 170 artists, from Dolly Parton to Nick Cave & the Bad Seeds; and

WHEREAS, Starting in the 1970s, Mr. Davis became a successful singer in his own right, with hits such as "Baby, Don't Get Hooked on Me," "Stop and Smell the Roses," "It's Hard to Be Humble," and "Hooked on Music"; with his good looks and genial Texas charm, he also enjoyed a career as an actor, appearing in such films as *North Dallas Forty*, *Cheaper to Keep Her*, and *The Sting II*, as well as such television series as *The Muppet Show*, *Rodney*, and *King of the Hill*; in 1993, he played the title role in a Broadway musical, *The Will Rogers Follies*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis continued to work as a songwriter well into his 70s; with Bruno Mars, he cowrote "Young Girls" for the album *Unorthodox Jukebox*, and in 2014, he cowrote "Addicted to You," a dance club hit for the Swedish performer Avicii; during his solo music career, he charted 30 times on the Billboard Hot Country Songs chart between 1970 and 1986, and in 1998, he received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame; he was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2000 and into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2006; and

WHEREAS, In all his endeavors, Mr. Davis benefited from the love and support of Lise Gerard, his wife of 38 years, and he was the proud father of three children, Noah, Cody, and Joel; and

WHEREAS, As a writer and performer, Mac Davis brought joy to multitudes of people, and he leaves behind a legacy of memorable and beautifully crafted songs that will continue to delight listeners for generations to come; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Mac Davis and extend heartfelt sympathy to his family and many friends; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Mac Davis.