

By: Turner of Dallas

H.R. No. 405

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Country music lost a trailblazing legend with the
2 death of singer Charley Pride of Dallas on December 12, 2020, at the
3 age of 86; and

4 WHEREAS, The son of Tessie Stewart Pride and Mack Pride Sr.,
5 Charley Frank Pride was born on a sharecropping farm in Sledge,
6 Mississippi, on March 18, 1934; a promising athlete, he played
7 baseball in the Negro American League before completing his
8 military service; he began singing at social events in Helena,
9 Montana, while working at a smelting plant, and country artists Red
10 Sovine and Red Foley urged him to pursue a career in Nashville; in
11 1964, he scored the first of 52 Top 10 country hits with "Just
12 Between You and Me"; he hit No. 1 nearly 30 times over the next two
13 decades, and his classic "Kiss An Angel Good Mornin'" introduced
14 his rich baritone voice to pop music fans; and

15 WHEREAS, Named both Male Vocalist and Entertainer of the Year
16 by the Country Music Association Awards in 1971, he went on to break
17 a color barrier by cohosting the CMAs on television four years
18 later; the winner of three Grammy Awards, Mr. Pride was the first
19 African American to join the Grand Ole Opry, and in 2000, he became
20 the first African American inducted into the Country Music Hall of
21 Fame; he was a role model and mentor to many stars, among them Brad
22 Paisley, Darius Rucker, and Jimmie Allen, with whom he sang at the
23 CMA Awards in November 2020; at this final appearance, he accepted
24 the Willie Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award; and

1 WHEREAS, Mr. Pride also enjoyed success in business as a
2 majority owner of a bank, and he invested in real estate, founded a
3 booking and management company, and partnered in a music publishing
4 firm; devoted to his family, he shared a fulfilling marriage of 63
5 years with his wife, Ebby Rozene Cohran Pride; he took great pride
6 in his children, Carlton, Charles, and Angela, along with his five
7 grandchildren, Carlton, Malachi, Syler, Ebby, and Arrentino, and
8 two great-grandchildren, Skyler and Carlton; and

9 WHEREAS, Gracious and kind, as well as immensely gifted,
10 Charley Pride earned a special place in the hearts of innumerable
11 people, and his music will remain a source of joy and inspiration in
12 the years to come; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas
14 Legislature hereby pay tribute to the life of Charley Pride and
15 extend sincere condolences to all who mourn his passing; and, be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be
18 prepared for his family and that when the Texas House of
19 Representatives adjourns this day, it do so in memory of Charley
20 Pride.