

By: Representatives Mims, Sanford

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 54

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. BILLY RAY
2 REYNOLDS AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS
3 UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, it is written in Ecclesiastes 3:1 that "To
5 everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under
6 the Heaven," and as such, on November 29, 2019, the immaculate
7 author and finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal
8 presence of dearly beloved, Mr. Billy Ray Reynolds, to eternal
9 rest, rendering great sorrow and loss to his family and friends;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, his community lost a wonderful friend and
12 extraordinary musician with his passing, and now there is a hush
13 in our hearts as we pay our respects to the memory of one who has
14 been called to join that innumerable heavenly caravan; and

15 WHEREAS, a native of Mt. Olive, Mississippi, Mr. Reynolds was
16 born October 6, 1940, to Joseph Bernice Tew and Annie Ruth Ingram
17 Tew Allen, and was a world renowned singer, songwriter, musician,
18 producer, composer, arranger, actor, writer and historian, whose



19 fame in the music and entertainment industry are eclipsed only by
20 his humility and thankfulness for having lived a life which had
21 its origins in such humble beginnings; and

22 WHEREAS, with his musical expertise, Mr. Reynolds was perhaps
23 best known during his early years as the rhythm guitarist for
24 Waylon Jennings, and playing session guitar and singing harmony on
25 some of the most iconic records Waylon Jennings ever produced; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Reynolds was an impressive, award-winning
27 songwriter, with songs recorded by numerous esteemed artists,
28 including Waylon Jennings, Johnny Cash, Tanya Tucker, John Conlee,
29 Toby Keith, Tompall Glaser, Eddy Arnold, Tom Jones, Jake Owen,
30 Conway Twitty, Bobby Bare, Dickey Betts, and many other top
31 artists with a career that spanned over three decades in
32 Nashville; and

33 WHEREAS, Mr. Reynolds also played guitar and was vocalist for
34 the legendary steel guitarist, Pete Drake, and for many years was
35 signed to Mr. Drake's publishing company, Window Music, which
36 Reynolds helped to manage; and

37 WHEREAS, with his versatility as an actor, Mr. Reynolds
38 landed multiple roles in the television and film industry, and
39 served several years as the president of the Screen Actors Guild
40 for Tennessee and Kentucky; and

41 WHEREAS, Mr. Reynolds' proudest accomplishments in music
42 derived from helping others achieve their dreams, and by forging



43 meaningful professional relationships and friendships among those
44 in the music industry; and

45 WHEREAS, in 2006, after having moved back to his beloved
46 hometown, he met the love of his life, Lora Reynolds, at the Frank
47 Brown Songwriters Festival near her home in Pensacola, Florida,
48 and they soon married; and

49 WHEREAS, their collaboration surpassed mere attraction and
50 allowed them to write and produce their own original country and
51 spiritual songs to audiences from Nashville to Key West, and along
52 the way, provide true meaning to their duet album's title cut,
53 "Country Music Love Affair"; and

54 WHEREAS, as a man of exceptional character and honor, Mr.
55 Reynolds made a difference in the lives of many, and will truly be
56 missed by all, young and old; and

57 WHEREAS, though he has traversed the river of life to reunite
58 with those who answered God's summons to life eternal earlier and
59 now beckon his arrival to the celestial shores of Heaven's
60 grandeur, the legacy of Mr. Reynolds's indelible imprint upon our
61 lives will continue to refresh the hearts and fond memories of his
62 loved ones, including: his wife, Lora Reynolds; brothers, Bobby
63 Reynolds and J.B. Tew; sons, Damon Reynolds, Carson McHale, Brian
64 Reynolds, Jesse Reynolds and Cleburne Reynolds; seven
65 grandchildren; his beloved pets, "Mac" and "Peaches"; and a host
66 of close relatives and dear friends; and



67 WHEREAS, Mr. Reynolds' family and friends can find peace and
68 comfort during this difficult time because it is written in II
69 Corinthians 5:8, that to be "absent from the body is to be present
70 with the Lord"; and

71 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
72 recognize and commend the lives of outstanding individuals,
73 especially those such as Mr. Reynolds, who certainly inspired
74 everyone he knew and whose life's light illuminated the path of
75 hope for all he encountered along his earthly sojourn:

76 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
77 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
78 mourn the loss and commemorate the life and legacy of Mr. Billy
79 Ray Reynolds and express deepest sympathy to his family and
80 friends upon his passing.

81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
82 furnished to the family of Mr. Billy Ray Reynolds and to the
83 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

