

Senate Resolution 556

By: Senators Mullis of the 53rd, Miller of the 49th, Dugan of the 30th, Gooch of the 51st, Goodman of the 8th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending James Rogers; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, a natural entertainer, singer, songwriter, and musician, James Rogers' unique
3 talent has been enjoyed since 1972 by audiences around the world, including in Switzerland
4 and China; and

5 WHEREAS, born in Chattanooga, Tennessee, on December 22, 1949, James received his
6 first guitar at 11 years old, and he has since honed his talent and skill into an illustrious and
7 distinguished career; and

8 WHEREAS, originally planning on becoming a lawyer, his junior year at the University of
9 Tennessee was interrupted by a six-month tour of duty with the United States Army, during
10 which time he became famous for his "latrine concerts"; and

11 WHEREAS, following his return from active duty, James became a two-week replacement
12 performer at the Light Fantastic club in Chattanooga, his first official gig as a performer, and
13 his popularity quickly grew; and

14 WHEREAS, he would go on to enjoy a long tenure at the Station House following a chance
15 encounter and audition with Allen Casey, the wealthy chairman behind the
16 multi-million-dollar Choo Choo complex who served as his manager; and

17 WHEREAS, from 1975 to 1983, James spent most of his time traveling across the country
18 and performing alongside some of the biggest names in show business, including Alabama,
19 Suzy Bogguss, Roy Clark, Steve Martin, Ricky Skaggs, and superstar Dolly Parton; and

20 WHEREAS, his production show, James Rogers and Company, and 2000 seat
21 multi-million-dollar theater have earned worldwide acclaim and numerous awards, such as
22 the Peoples' Choice awards for Best Show, Best Theater, and Best Entertainer; and

23 WHEREAS, in recent years, James' music has taken on a patriotic tone and features tributes
24 to the United States Armed Forces, the American Bald Eagle, and other causes that bring the
25 listener closer to God and country; and

26 WHEREAS, during his off-season from Dollywood, he goes out on the road to perform
27 benefit concerts around the country and raise money for projects and organizations serving
28 those in need, including food ministries and the Key Training Center; and

29 WHEREAS, this distinguished gentleman has given inspiration to many through his high
30 ideals, morals, and deep concern for his fellow citizens; and

31 WHEREAS, James possesses the vast wisdom which only comes through experience and the
32 strength of character which is achieved through overcoming the many challenges of life; and

33 WHEREAS, by the example James has made of his life, he has made this world a better
34 place in which to live, and it is only fitting and proper that he be appropriately honored.

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
36 recognize and commend James Rogers for his innumerable artistic works and extend the
37 most sincere best wishes for continued health and happiness.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
39 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to James Rogers.