

**HOUSE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

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DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing Robert Carter.

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**Porter**

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\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing Robert Carter.

*Whereas, Robert "Bob" Carter was born December 4, 1929, in Decatur, Illinois, where he grew up as a passionate lover of music before earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in theater and radio communications from Millikin University and a Master of Science degree from Syracuse University in television production;*

*Whereas, Bob Carter began his legendary broadcasting career working in small radio and television markets in various roles, including stints as a weatherman in Peoria, Illinois, and as a disc jockey at a Fort Wayne, Indiana, radio station owned by Sarkes Tarzian;*

*Whereas, Bob Carter's early broadcasting work included filling in for Dick Clark on American Bandstand as a guest disc jockey and creating the famous advertising slogan "Finger Lickin' Good" for Kentucky Fried Chicken as an ad lib during a live commercial;*

*Whereas, In 1961, Bob Carter went to work at the Sarkes Tarzian-owned WTTV Channel 4 television station located at 3490 Bluff Road on the south side of Indianapolis, Indiana, where he filled the positions of producer, director, and performer, including hosting a three-hour morning talk show called "Coffee with Carter" and serving as on-air announcer for "Championship Wrestling";*

*Whereas, In 1962, after WTTV purchased a package of 52*



*horror films from Universal Studios, Bob Carter was chosen to host a new program featuring these films on late Friday nights called "Shock Theater", subsequently renamed "Nightmare Theater", for which he created the character of Sammy Terry, a play on the word "cemetery", whose ghoulish face, wrapped in a hooded cloak, and sinister, guttural laugh, along with his eight legged sidekick, an arachnid named George, frightened, delighted, bemused, amused, and entertained audiences for over four decades;*

*Whereas, After 10 years of on air performances and live appearances, Bob Carter as Sammy Terry had become such a popular and beloved entertainer of Hoosiers that Governor Edgar Whitcomb proclaimed October 31, 1972, Halloween, of course, as Sammy Terry Day throughout the State of Indiana;*

*Whereas, After the initial run of "Nightmare Theater" ended around 1976 and was off the air for a few years, Bob Carter devoted his time to the Family Music Center music store located at 46th Street and North Shadeland Avenue in Indianapolis, which he owned and operated until the store closed in 2001. The Family Music Center sold musical instruments, provided music lessons, offered a legendary selection of sheet music, and allowed Carter to help start many band programs in Indianapolis parochial schools;*

*Whereas, Bob Carter was one of the first inductees into the Horror Host Hall of Fame in 2011 and was inducted into the Indiana Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2013; and*

*Whereas, Bob Carter passed away June 30, 2013, and is survived by his wife of 60 years, Phyllis, his daughter Katherine, his daughter Elizabeth, his son David, and his son Mark, who continues his father's Sammy Terry legacy, as well as 14 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren: Therefore,*

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives  
of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,  
the Senate concurring:*

1 SECTION 1. That the Indiana General Assembly acknowledges



1 Robert Rockwell Carter as an Indiana broadcast pioneer, as the creator  
2 of Sammy Terry, the longest running and one of the most iconic horror  
3 movie hosts from the Golden Age of Television, and as a devoted  
4 music educator.

5 SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of  
6 Representatives shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the family of  
7 Robert Rockwell Carter with "many pleasant nightmares."

