

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 211

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

A RESOLUTION

To commend James Burton upon his 2018 induction into the Louisiana Folklife Center Hall of Master Folk Artists.

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Folklife Center is an agency of Northwestern State University of Louisiana and was established in 1976; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Louisiana Folklife Center is to identify, document, and present Louisiana's rich history of folklore and folklife, and the center serves as an archival repository for many folklife materials; and

WHEREAS, the Hall of Master Folk Artists, which was started in 1981, currently has more than one hundred distinguished inducted honorees in celebration of Louisiana's vibrant and diverse folk culture; and

WHEREAS, born August 21, 1939, in Dubberly, Louisiana, James Burton's family moved to Shreveport, where he spent his formative years; at the age of fifteen, James recorded the famous hit, *Suzie Q*; his hit record resulted in airtime as a regular on the *Louisiana Hayride* radio show; he joined rockabilly and country singer Bob Luman's band; he also played with Ricky Nelson; and

WHEREAS, James Burton recorded with Dean Martin, Bobby Darin, and The Everly Brothers; his musical gifts allowed him to become a key figure in The Wrecking Crew, a group of session musicians; in 1969, James was asked by Elvis Presley to form a band; he did so and he became Elvis' band leader; and

WHEREAS, after Elvis Presley died in 1977, James Burton took his musical skills on the road and toured with Emmylou Harris, John Denver, and Jerry Lee Lewis; he also recorded with Kenny Rogers, Elvis Costello, and Johnny Cash; and

WHEREAS, James Burton has been inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame, the Musicians Hall of Fame, the Country Music Hall of Fame, and the Rockabilly Hall of Fame; famed Rolling Stones founder and guitarist Keith Richards was proud to conduct the ceremony of James Burton's induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; on February 8, 2009, James won a Grammy award for the instrumental Brad Paisley song "Cluster Pluck"; and

WHEREAS, the musical talents of James Burton have reaped benefits for people everywhere; the James Burton Foundation is dedicated to providing instruments to children in schools, hospitals, and civic programs and to veterans; having received his first guitar at a young age instilled in James a desire to help new generations of players; and

WHEREAS, James continues to tour and play his guitar around the world each year and is a fitting ambassador to represent the best of Louisiana; James Burton merits a special measure of commendation upon his 2018 induction into the Louisiana Folklife Center Hall of Master Folk Artists.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend James Burton upon his 2018 induction into the Louisiana Folklife Center Hall of Master Folk Artists; does hereby congratulate him on his lifetime of musicianship and musical achievements; and does hereby extend to him every good wish for continued success, prosperity, and happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to James Burton.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES