

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 212

BY REPRESENTATIVE COX

A RESOLUTION

To commend Jim Oertling 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

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Folklife Center serves as an archival repository for many folklife materials; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana-born Jim Oertling was raised in San Antonio but spent summers at his grandfather's home in Bayou Lacombe, where he was immersed in swamp culture and conceived the idea for his first hit song while summering in the bayou; and

WHEREAS, Jim was still a student at Louisiana State University when he visited Cosimo Matassa's New Orleans recording studio to cut his twangy fish tale and biggest song; he came to fame with his recording in 1963 of *Old Moss Back*, a tall tale tune about a Louisiana fisherman's never-ending battles with an elusive largemouth black bass; although Jim never landed the fish he sung about in the song, *Old Moss Back* and a slew of other classics earned a place for him in the 1997 induction class of the Rockabilly Hall of Fame; he also wrote and recorded *Louisiana Gambler* and *Back Forty Blues*; and

WHEREAS, Jim's early music career was put on hold when he answered his nation's call to duty; Jim Oertling joined the Army in 1965 and served as a combat infantry officer; after his military service, Jim spent decades as a bull rider, cattle ranch foreman, and commercial banker, but he returned to the music scene in 2013 with the release of *Mossback*

*Revisited*, a mix of rockabilly, ballads, and TexMex song stylings; the music Jim performs reflects his Cajun, country, rock and roll, and Tejano influences; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 Ponderosa Stomp was Jim's first major show appearance after his musical hiatus, and when he performed at the 2016 Rock 'N' Bowl, fans from around the world came to hear him; Jim Oertling loves to sing to audiences large and small, and he 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 Jim Oertling upon his 2018 induction into the Louisiana Folklife Center Hall of Master Folk Artists; does hereby congratulate him on his powerful performance presence that leaves fans wanting more; 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 Jim Oertling.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES