

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 361

By Beck

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Larry's Grand Ole Garage & Bluegrass Music Park.

WHEREAS, Tennessee is proud to be the home of various genres of music that are essential components of the American musical landscape; from Bristol, the birthplace of country music, to Memphis, the blues capital of the world, musicians across the State continue to inspire and influence others with their astounding artistry; and

WHEREAS, the lifeblood of any music scene is the grassroots communities that come together simply for the love of the music; one such community hub is Larry's Grand Ole Garage & Bluegrass Music Park in Madison, founded and owned by multi-instrumentalist and bluegrass aficionado Lonnie Jones; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones established his bluegrass music venue in memory of his best friend, Larry Plemons, an excellent singer and picker in his own right who owned the garage, worked as an auto mechanic, and drove a tour bus, helping country stars such as Ronnie Milsap and Waylon Jennings tour the nation; and

WHEREAS, after Mr. Plemons's passing in 1999, Lonnie Jones purchased the garage and transmission shop and embarked on a one-year, intensive remodeling effort that included installing stage lights, a sound system, a mixing board, and a couple dozen old church pews; and

WHEREAS, every Tuesday night, folks gather for a jam session and a circle of song; an audience of thirty to forty people sit in the pews while a dozen or so sit up front in a picking circle; unlike most other informal jam sessions, each player is miked and mixed for optimal sound in the room; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Ole Garage is a community treasure that provides many, mostly seniors, a place to come and enjoy music and sing a tune if they like; Mr. Jones is adamant that all experience and talent levels are welcome; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the Tuesday gatherings, which Lonnie Jones has streamed live to the world for the last twelve years, the Grand Ole Garage presents a formal band concert on the first Saturday of most months, and the third Saturday of the month is devoted to a bluegrass-gospel jam. In June, Mr. Jones hosts the long-running Madison Bluegrass Festival at an off-site campground; and

WHEREAS, Lonnie and his wife, Rita, have cultivated a positive community atmosphere in which those of every stripe are welcome to participate in musical communion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize and honor Larry's Grand Ole Garage & Bluegrass Music Park, extending our gratitude to proprietors Lonnie and Rita Jones for their contribution to music and community in Davidson County and this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.