

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 934

By Hardaway

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate The Bar-Kays upon the celebration of their fiftieth anniversary as a musical group.

WHEREAS, for fifty amazing years, The Bar-Kays have produced some of the funkier soul music ever played by a native Memphis band, an accolade that speaks volumes about both their longevity and their creativity as musicians; and

WHEREAS, formed in Memphis in 1966, The Bar-Kays soon took their place among the pantheon of classic Memphis soul instrumental groups by performing as one of the house bands at the legendary Stax/Volt Records; and

WHEREAS, over the course of their dynamic career, The Bar-Kays have produced twenty-nine albums and forty singles; and

WHEREAS, five of these albums went gold, and one album achieved platinum status, selling one million copies; they also have twenty Top Ten albums and singles to their credit, including the playful instrumental *Soul Finger*, which reached number twenty on the pop charts and went all the way to number three on the R&B charts in 1967; and

WHEREAS, while backing the great Otis Redding on tour, four of The Bar-Kays tragically lost their lives on December 10, 1967, in the same airplane crash that claimed the life of Mr. Redding; and

WHEREAS, despite this tragedy, The Bar-Kays regrouped and even prospered, evolving into a popular funk ensemble over the course of the 1970s; and

WHEREAS, today, The Bar-Kays are still making great music from Memphis. Their work has been sampled by other musicians for years, from Cameo to Coolio to Will Smith, and their

contributions have been documented in The Stax Museum of American Soul Music and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, their first album on their own label was the fantastic *The Real Thing*, which featured two hit singles: *Glad You're My Lady*, which made the Top Ten in many markets, including their hometown of Memphis, and *You're My Joy*; and

WHEREAS, the current members of The Bar-Kays include: Larry Dodson, lead singer; James Alexander, founding member and bass player; Angelo Earl, guitar; Ezra Williams, keyboard and music director; Carlos Sargent, drums; Mark Bynum, keyboard; and Archie Love and Kavin Milan, background vocals; and

WHEREAS, The Bar-Kays are now working on their thirtieth album and recently charted their most recent Billboard hit, "Grown Folks," and they continue to serve the musical and world community, playing for troops in Kuwait and Iraq and volunteering to teach students at the Stax Music Academy; and

WHEREAS, although Tennessee possesses an incomparable musical heritage from Memphis to Mountain City, there are few musicians who have demonstrated the artistry, adaptability, and resiliency that The Bar-Kays have evidenced during their fifty years as a band, and their peerless musical legacy and uncommon longevity should be appropriately recognized by this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate The Bar-Kays upon the celebration of their fiftieth anniversary as a musical group and wish these gentlemen all the best as they continue to make great music in Memphis and extend their already impressive legacy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.