

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

By Roberts

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of country music legend Loretta Lynn.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of country music legend Loretta Lynn; and

WHEREAS, a singular icon in country music history, Loretta Lynn, over the course of her sixty-year career, amassed a staggering fifty-one Top 10 hits, garnered Grammy awards and induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame, sold over 45 million albums worldwide, and empowered women everywhere with her songs of tenacity and self-assured spirit; and

WHEREAS, hailing from Butcher Hollow, Kentucky, Ms. Lynn was a self-made star who hit the road with her husband visiting radio stations to introduce her debut record; she personified the American Dream in a way few other artists could and became one of country music's most celebrated stars; and

WHEREAS, Loretta Lynn was a singer and songwriter of the highest order; her debut single, "I'm a Honky Tonk Girl," climbed the charts in the 1960s, followed by standout hits "Fist City," "Coal Miner's Daughter," "You're Lookin' at Country," "One's on the Way," "The Pill," and "After the Fire is Gone"; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the Oscar-winning 1980 film *Coal Miner's Daughter*, Ms. Lynn's story and songs were brought to an even wider audience, amplifying her impact on several generations of songwriters and artists in various genres, including Jack White, with whom she made the Grammy-winning 2004 album *Van Lear Rose*; and

WHEREAS, throughout her eighties, Loretta Lynn continued to write new songs and, in 2016, returned to the charts with the Grammy-nominated album *Full Circle*, followed by *White Christmas Blue*, the Grammy-nominated *Wouldn't It Be Great*, and *Still Woman Enough*, which

featured a deeply emotional "Coal Miner's Daughter Recitation," to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of her signature song; and

WHEREAS, her countless accolades include eight Country Music Association awards, four Grammy awards, and a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award; she was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry in 1962, and in 1972, she became the first female artist to win the Country Music Association's coveted Entertainer of the Year award; and

WHEREAS, beyond her ubiquitous success and stardom, Loretta Lynn was a real, down-to-earth person—a great neighbor and friend to those who lived near and visited Loretta Lynn Ranch in Hurricane Mills, and a beloved "memaw" to her grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the legion of fans who mourn her passing, Loretta Lynn will be fondly remembered by daughters, Patsy Lynn Russell, Peggy Lynn, and Clara (Cissie) Marie Lynn; her son, Ernest Ray Lynn; her grandchildren, Lynn Massey, Audrey Dryer, Jenny Whitworth, Jeremy Jack Lynn, Lori Lynn Smith, Ethan Lyell, Elizabeth Braun, Alexandria McCorry, Levi Lynn, Jason Lynn, Ernest Ray Lynn, Jr., Tayla Lynn, Alex Lynn, David Greer, Wesley Lynn, Jasynta Connelly, Lucca Marchetti, Natalie Rapp, Anthony Brutto, Megan Horkins, Katherine Condy, David Russell, Emmy Rose Russell, Jennafer Russell, and Melody Russell; and several great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Lynn was preceded in death by her husband of forty-eight years, Oliver Vanetta "Doolittle" Lynn; her daughter, Betty Sue Lynn; her son, Jack Benny Lynn; and her grandson, Jeff Lynn; and

WHEREAS, Loretta Lynn's impact has always been far-reaching, and her legacy will live on through her family, Loretta Lynn Ranch, and her important songs, which will forever remain part of the country music canon and the fabric of American music; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional artist and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Loretta Lynn, reflecting on her indelible contributions to country music and her enduring legacy of determination and creative spirit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family, friends, and many fans of Ms. Lynn.

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.