

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 51

By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to recognize Bill Anderson's illustrious career in country music and honor his fiftieth anniversary as a member of the Grand Ole Opry.

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that this General Assembly should pay homage to those inspirational artists who perform pure and passionate country music; and

WHEREAS, Bill Anderson is an exemplary country music singer who has inspired and uplifted audiences with his unique musical style for decades; and

WHEREAS, born in Columbia, South Carolina, and raised in Decatur, Georgia, Mr. Anderson wrote his first hit song, "City Lights," at the age of nineteen while attending the University of Georgia. The song topped the charts at number one after being recorded by singer Ray Price; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished songwriter and singer, he was inducted as a member of the Grand Ole Opry in 1961; and

WHEREAS, after signing with Decca Records, his first major single as a recording artist came in 1963 with "Still," which quickly became his signature song, as pop and country music fans alike enjoyed his distinctive sound; and

WHEREAS, it was Mr. Anderson's breathy singing style that led him to become popularly known as "Whisperin' Bill," a nickname first bestowed upon him by comedian Don Bowman; and

WHEREAS, this incredible performer followed his initial success as a recording artist with a twenty-three year career with Decca Records, releasing various other hits in addition to "Still," including "That's What It's Like To Be Lonesome," "I Get The Fever," and "Bright Lights And Country Music"; and

WHEREAS, over the last fifty years, Mr. Anderson's superior songwriting abilities have caught the eye of some of the music industry's most notable artists, such as Aretha Franklin, Dean Martin, and The Oak Ridge Boys; and

WHEREAS, more recently, he wrote songs which were recorded by contemporary country artists such as Kenny Chesney and Brad Paisley, who recorded Mr. Anderson's song "Whiskey Lullaby" with artist Allison Krauss, a song which has won multiple awards; and

WHEREAS, a jack-of-all-trades in the entertainment industry, Mr. Anderson's career reached new heights when he made his acting debut; and

WHEREAS, he became the first country music artist to host a network game show when he starred on *The Better Sex* on the American Broadcasting Company (ABC); and

WHEREAS, this versatile entertainer then spent three years on ABC's popular soap opera *One Life To Live* and hosted a country music game show on The Nashville Network (TNN) called *Fandango*, one of several shows he hosted or produced for TNN; and

WHEREAS, he has been the longtime host of Larry Black's "Country's Family Reunion" show on the RFD television network; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Anderson is also an accomplished author, publishing three books: *Whisperin' Bill, An Autobiography*, *I Hope You're Living As High On The Hog As The Pig You Turned Out To Be*, and *Letters To My Fans*; and

WHEREAS, as the result of a long and prosperous music career, he has been inducted into several well-known music organizations, including the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, the Georgia Music Hall of Fame, the Georgia Broadcasters Hall of Fame, the Georgia Radio Hall of Fame, the South Carolina Music and Entertainment Hall of Fame, and the National Traditional Country Music Association's Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Anderson currently resides in Nashville and continues to perform with his Po' Folks Band, who appear with him in concerts across the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, after a prominent, multi-faceted career spanning more than half a century, Bill Anderson, a living legend, epitomizes the creative spirit and commitment to the State's

cultural heritage, and he truly serves as an exemplary Ambassador for Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize Bill Anderson upon his legendary career in country music, congratulate him on his fiftieth anniversary as a member of the Grand Ole Opry, thank him for all he has done to preserve and extend the musical heritage of this State, and wish him the very best in all his future endeavors.

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