

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 630

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to honor country music legend Charlie Daniels.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those gifted artists who enrich the cultural landscape of our State and uphold the sonic legacy of Music City through traditional country music, the resounding heartbeat of the South; and

WHEREAS, Charlie Daniels is a country music icon, philanthropist, and patriot who has been entertaining fans for more than half of a century and has called Tennessee home for forty-five years; and

WHEREAS, born in Wilmington, North Carolina, on October 28, 1936, Mr. Daniels's earliest impressions and experiences were infused with the dulcet tones of Appalachian bluegrass; and

WHEREAS, he performed in several bands throughout his youth, from bluegrass with the Misty Mountain Boys to rock and roll with Epic Records's The Jaguars; and

WHEREAS, before hitting it big with the Charlie Daniels Band, he lent his talent to an impressive array of well-known artists, co-writing Elvis's "It Hurts Me," supplying bass and guitar on Bob Dylan's *Nashville Skyline*, performing with greats like Ringo Starr, Marty Robbins, and Leonard Cohen, and producing two albums for the folk rock group The Youngbloods; and

WHEREAS, 1970 marked a pivotal moment in Mr. Daniels's career, as he released his first solo album, *Charlie Daniels*, with Capitol Records and formed the Charlie Daniels Band (CDB), with whom he would ultimately secure his legendary status among Southern rock bands and with whom he would produce his first hit song, "Uneasy Rider," which rose to number nine on the 1973 Billboard Hot 100 chart; and

WHEREAS, upon the CDB's successful release of the album *Fire on the Mountain*, which reached double platinum status with memorable chart toppers like "The South's Gonna

Do It Again” and “Long Haired Country Boy,” Mr. Daniels established an annual live concert in Nashville, the Volunteer Jam; and

WHEREAS, over the course of three decades, Volunteer Jam brought many celebrated musicians to the Nashville stage, including Willie Nelson, James Brown, Tammy Wynette, and members of the Marshall Tucker Band, the Allman Brothers Band, Oak Ridge Boys, and Alabama, truly marking Nashville as a cultural capital of music and entertainment; and

WHEREAS, a few years later, the CDB unleashed their popular hit “The Devil Went Down to Georgia” to enormous success. It dominated the charts at number one and won the 1979 Grammy Award for Best Country Vocal; and

WHEREAS, CDB continued to garner critical and commercial success throughout the next two decades as they appeared in the 1980 film *Urban Cowboy* and produced the number eleven Billboard album *Full Moon* and the number two country album *Simple Man*; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his illustrious career in country music, Mr. Daniels has received much recognition for his contributions to the Christian music scene, winning *Cashbox Magazine*’s Best Positive Christian Country Performance by a Secular Artist, earning Dove awards for Best Country Album of the Year and Song of the Year, and receiving a Grammy nomination for Best Christian Album of the Year; and

WHEREAS, his other professional honors include The Pioneer Award by the Academy of Country Music, the Living Legend Award from The Music City News/The Nashville Network, a BMI Icon award, the Career Achievement Award from the Country Music DJ and Radio Hall of Fame, membership in the Musicians Hall of Fame, a star on Music City’s Walk of Fame, induction into Wilmington’s prestigious Walk of Fame, and an honorary doctor of letters degree from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Daniels’s most meaningful award perhaps was his induction into the elite Grand Ole Opry in 2008, an honor befitting his long and storied career in country music and his invaluable role in the Nashville entertainment industry; and

WHEREAS, his many achievements and awards aside, Charlie Daniels has devoted himself to public service, honoring and supporting our troops both at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, with the Charlie Daniels Band, he launched Operation Heartstrings in 2005, a program that donated 13,000 musical instruments and accessories, such as Gibson guitars, drums, keyboards, and microphones, to deployed service members overseas; and

WHEREAS, he has also performed for troops stationed at Guantanamo Bay, Bosnia, Kuwait, and South Korea and toured several times to Iraq with Stars for Stripes; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his service to the troops, Charlie Daniels received the 2007 AMVETS Silver Helmet Award and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Exceptional Public Service Award; and

WHEREAS, this generous man has served many other charitable causes, hosting The Charlie Daniels Celebrity Golf Classic & Angelus Concert, which benefits a full-time residential facility and day school program for the severely handicapped; co-hosting the Jason Foundation Golf Classic, a national organization which targets teen suicide prevention; serving on the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Professional Advisory Board; and supporting the T.J. Martell Foundation for Leukemia, Cancer, and AIDS Research, which honored him with the Lifetime Entertainment Achievement Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Daniels is most appreciative of the love and support he receives from his wife, Hazel, with whom he has enjoyed forty-nine blissful years of marriage; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the venerable Mr. Charlie Daniels for his worthwhile contributions and over fifty years of incomparable service to the country music business and the citizens of the State of 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 the numerous contributions of Charlie Daniels to American country music and culture, commend him for his tireless patriotism and public service, and extend to him our wishes for every future success.

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