

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1216

By Haynes

A RESOLUTION to honor country music legend Ferlin Husky on the occasion of his induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to those gifted musical artists who have reached the very pinnacle of the country music industry; and

WHEREAS, Ferlin Husky will receive an honor long overdue on May 22, 2010, when he is inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Ferlin Husky was born December 3, 1925, on a farm in Cantwell, Missouri; his childhood dreams were to become a singer and make records, to appear on the Grand Ole Opry, and to become a movie actor and star; and

WHEREAS, as a youth he sang locally at church functions and amateur competitions; then Mr. Husky's dreams were put on hold while he served his country for five years during World War II; he joined the United States Merchant Marines, was among those brave men who served with courage and valor on D-Day during the Allied invasion of France in 1944, and was subsequently awarded a Volunteer Gunner citation for his meritorious service; and

WHEREAS, Ferlin Husky returned home in 1947 to Missouri, where he became a disc jockey; he then moved to California, tried his hand at acting, and recorded for Bill McCall's Four Star Records and Capitol Records under the names "Terry Preston" and "Tex Terry"; he also performed comedy routines using the name "Simon Crum"; and

WHEREAS, he became a vital element of the newly emerging "Bakersfield Sound," which was later popularized by his associate, Buck Owens; and

WHEREAS, in 1953, Mr. Husky returned to his given name, and teamed up with young Bakersfield singer Jean Shepard to record what became his first hit, "A Dear John Letter"; this

song was Number One on the country charts for six weeks, and crossed over to reach Number Four on the pop charts; the pair's follow-up song, "Forgive Me John," also charted in the Top Ten, and thus both of their careers were successfully launched; and

WHEREAS, the 1950s brought several career highlights, as when he joined the world-famous Grand Ole Opry, and helped to make the Opry one of the nation's most popular music programs during this decade; and

WHEREAS, in order to compete with the emergent success of rock 'n' roll music in 1956, Mr. Husky's next record, "(Since You've) Gone," pioneered the replacement of the steel guitar and fiddle with a modest rhythm section and background vocals; the change was so extreme that some disc jockeys refused to play the song; however, by 1957, "Gone" had reached Number One on the country charts, and held that position for ten weeks; "Gone" also made it to Number Four on the pop charts, becoming a true "crossover" success, and was arguably, the first hit song made with the distinctive "Nashville Sound," a production technique still used today; and

WHEREAS, Ferlin Husky's next hit was the gospel song, "Wings of a Dove," which charted at Number One for ten weeks in 1960, and will forever be associated with him; from October 29, 1958, until June 25, 1994, "Wings of a Dove" was voted the fifth most popular country song by *Billboard*; and

WHEREAS, his abilities were not limited to the art and business of music, as the multi-talented Mr. Husky fulfilled another dream; he made more than eighteen motion pictures with such luminaries as Henry Fonda, Glenn Ford, and Lon Chaney and appeared on numerous television shows, including Kraft TV Theater, Ed Sullivan, Dean Martin, and numerous talk shows; and

WHEREAS, he also had two hits, including the gold record "Country Music Is Here To Stay," as his alter ego, comedian "Simon Crum," a hayseed philosopher and typical "country bumpkin" ; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Husky has traveled around the world, performed for countless fans in Germany, England, Japan, Canada, and all fifty of the United States, and has earned the

respect and admiration of his colleagues, who view him as an “entertainer’s entertainer” and “The Best”; and

WHEREAS, Ferlin Husky has seen fifty-five of his records reach the country charts, has received five gold records, and has sold more than twenty million records; and

WHEREAS, seven-time winner of “Entertainer of the Year” laurels, he was the first performer on the Grand Ole Opry to be accompanied by drums and a modern back-up vocal group, and he was the first country performer to be awarded a star on the sidewalk of Hollywood Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, Ferlin Husky is one of the most versatile performers in the history of country music; his immeasurable talent and innovative approach have enabled him to leave an indelible mark on this art form, and secured for him his rightful place as an icon in its remarkable archives; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Husky gives back to his community as a member of the Fraternal Order of Police and National Sheriffs Association and as a 32nd Degree Scottish and York Rite Mason and Shriner, and he is renowned for his work with widows and orphans; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we recognize the illustrious career and extraordinary musical talents of one of the Kings of Classic Country, Ferlin Husky, as he savors this very special milestone; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that that we honor and commend Ferlin Husky on the occasion of his induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame and salute his legendary musical talent as a performing artist and entertainer and his singular contributions to country music.

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