

SENATE RESOLUTION 104
By Haun

A RESOLUTION To recognize and honor William (Bill) Traylor for his professional dedication and astute leadership.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this legislative body should pause to pay tribute to those individuals who, through their talent and commitment, have made lasting contributions to their respective fields; and

WHEREAS, William (Bill) Traylor is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest dedication and integrity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Traylor moved to Nashville in 1977 to become the lead singer of the musical group, the Downings; after only nine months, he realized that a life on the road was not for him; and

WHEREAS, In July of 1978, he accepted a position with The Benson Company as a radio promoter for their Southern Gospel label, HeartWarming; the label's roster, at that time, included such great artists as the Downings, the Speer Family, the Rambos, the Oak Ridge Boys, and the Kingsmen; and

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WHEREAS, As a result of his diligence and dynamic leadership, Bill Traylor was asked to lead The Benson Company's booking agency, Great Circle Representation, and later to head their radio department; and

WHEREAS, In 1981, William (Bill) Traylor was promoted to the position of A & R Director of the Benson Company's HeartWarming and Impact labels; during his remarkable tenure as Director, he signed such notable artists as Sandi Patty and Larnelle Harris; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Traylor left the Benson Company in late 1982, and started a new Southern Gospel label with CBS called RiverSong Records; the first artists he signed to this new and exciting label were The Cathedrals; and

WHEREAS, A year later, he purchased RiverSong from CBS and, in 1985, he sold the label to The Benson Company; at this same time, Bill Traylor was made president of The Benson Company; and

WHEREAS, As a result of William (Bill) Traylor's inspiring leadership and extensive knowledge of gospel music, The Benson Company signed Dino, Strypper, Carmen, DeGarmo and Key, Angle Lewis, and numerous other prominent Christian recording artists; and

WHEREAS, In August of 1987, he once again set out on his own, and founded Homeland Records, signing The Cathedrals to his new company; and

WHEREAS, Located in Franklin, Tennessee, Homeland Records is home to many of Southern Gospel's most popular artists, such as the Dove Brothers Quartet, the Florida Boys, the Wilburns, and the Melody Boys; and

WHEREAS, A consummate professional, Bill Traylor is very active in the Southern Gospel Music community; he currently serves with distinction on the Board of Directors of the GMA and as Vice President of the Southern Gospel Music Guild; in the past, he has served on the Advisory Board of the Southern Gospel Music Association; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Traylor is the much loved host of the nationally recognized television show "Homeland Harmony," which airs in 50 million households; he is also hosting "Gospel Music Southern Style," a program he is co-producing with The Inspiration Network; and

WHEREAS, An accomplished businessman and entrepreneur, William (Bill) Traylor has adeptly represented nationally recognized personalities such as Della Reese, Pat Boone, Boots Randolph, and Terry Bradshaw; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Traylor epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; through his creativity and hard work, he has distinguished himself as a leader in the music industry; and

WHEREAS, Bill Traylor's dedication to excellence is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby recognize and honor William (Bill) Traylor, commend his enthusiasm and professionalism in producing Southern Gospel Music, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success and happiness in 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.