

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 724  
By Ford, O.

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate The Bar-Kays and long-time members James Alexander and Larry Dodson upon the celebration of their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a musical group.

WHEREAS, for 40 amazing years, The Bar-Kays have produced some of the funkier soul music ever played by a native Memphis band, an accolade that speaks volumes about both their longevity and their creativity as musicians; and

WHEREAS, formed in Memphis in 1966, The Bar-Kays soon took their place among the pantheon of classic Memphis soul instrumental groups by performing as one of the house bands at the legendary *Stax/Volt Records*; and

WHEREAS, over the course of their dynamic career, The Bar-Kays have produced 27 albums and 40 singles; and

WHEREAS, 5 of these albums have gone gold and 1 album has achieved platinum status, selling 1 million copies; they also have 20 Top Ten albums and singles to their credit, including the playful instrumental *Soul Finger*, which reached Number 20 on the pop charts and went all the way to Number 3 on the R&B charts in 1967; and

WHEREAS, while backing the great Otis Redding on tour, four of The Bar-Kays tragically lost their lives on December 10, 1967, in the same airplane crash that claimed the life of Mr. Redding; and

WHEREAS, despite this tragedy, The Bar-Kays re-grouped and even prospered, evolving into a popular funk ensemble over the course of the 1970's; and

WHEREAS, today, The Bar-Kays are still making great music from Memphis as they work on their 28<sup>th</sup> career album for their own record label, JEA Right Now Records; and

WHEREAS, their first album on their own label was the fantastic *The Real Thing*, which featured two hit singles: *Glad You're My Lady*, which made the Top Ten in many markets, including their hometown of Memphis, and *You're My Joy*, which featured the fabulous Archie Love on lead vocals; and

WHEREAS, a Memphis native who was born into a strong family tradition of gospel music, Archie Love knew from an early age that music was his destiny; and

WHEREAS, after playing in several bands as a youth, Mr. Love finally found chart success as a member of The Main Attraction (with *Rainy Nights* from the album *All The Way*, which reached Billboard's Top 50) and The Right Choice (with a remake of Al Green's *Tired of Being Alone*, which reached Number 8 on the Billboard charts); and

WHEREAS, while working on a solo project, Mr. Love was approached in the studio by The Bar-Kays to sing the lead vocal on *You're My Joy*, and the rest, as they say, is history; and

WHEREAS, a talented vocalist, writer, percussionist, producer, and arranger, Archie Love is presently touring in support of his JEA Right Now singles, *Should've Been There for You* and *One More For the Lonely*; and

WHEREAS, likewise, The Breathtaking Bar-Kays are expanding upon their remarkable musical legacy by performing to sold-out audiences on their current tour, as they promote their latest single, *Sho Nuff*, which is produced by James Alexander's son, Jazze Pha, one of the Top 5 producers in the nation; and

WHEREAS, although Tennessee possesses an incomparable musical heritage from Memphis to Mountain City, there are few musicians who have demonstrated the artistry, adaptability, and resiliency that The Bar-Kays have evidenced during their 40 years as a band, and their peerless musical legacy and uncommon longevity should be appropriately recognized by this Body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate The Bar-Kays and long-time members James Alexander and Larry Dodson upon the celebration of their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a musical

group and wish these gentlemen all the best as they continue to make great music in Memphis and extend their already impressive legacy.

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