

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 652

By DeBerry J

A RESOLUTION to honor Freddie Burn's musical and broadcasting achievements.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those gifted musicians who have contributed to this state's great musical tradition; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Freddie Burns, a musician and broadcaster who was instrumental in creating the flourishing Memphis music scene; and

WHEREAS, in 1938, after working for Western Union, Freddie Burns began an illustrious radio career and organized a hillbilly band; and

WHEREAS, Freddie Burns became known as one of the best guitarists in Memphis, and he performed alongside musical greats like Elvis Presley and Eddie Arnold; and

WHEREAS, one of the top bands in Memphis at the time, Freddie Burns and his band, the Burnett-Carter Ranch Boys, later changed to Freddie Burns and his Ranch Boys, played as guests at the Grand Ole Opry, turned down an opportunity to play there permanently, and also turned down a deal with Republic pictures to do films with Gene Autry; and

WHEREAS, early in his career Freddie Burns played a guitar that became a classic instrument valued at over \$60,000; and

WHEREAS, a musical pioneer, Freddie Burns began his career when his band's music was simply known as hillbilly music, but is now valued as an important part of American culture and artistic expression; and

WHEREAS, a successful broadcaster as well as musician, Freddie Burns's radio programs were carried on 448 stations nationwide, the Armed Forces Radio in Europe, and Radio Tokyo; and

WHEREAS, Freddie Burns then took his broadcasting talents to television, becoming the first station manager for Memphis Television Station M.C.S. and the Motion Picture Film Director for Channel 13; and

WHEREAS, Freddie Burns hosted the television program *Freddie Burns Western Theatre* in which he would ride onto the set on horseback; and

WHEREAS, Freddie Burns was good friends with Dewey “Daddy-O” Phillips, a well-known local broadcaster, and Dewey asked Freddie Burns to teach him to play the guitar within a week, to which Freddie Burns replied, “Dewey, I can’t even teach you to hold a guitar in that length of time”; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his lifetime of achievements, on January 31, 2014, one day before his hundredth birthday, Freddie Burns will be named a Honorary Graduate of the Memphis School of Preaching; and

WHEREAS, Freddie Burn’s talent as a musician and broadcaster has most assuredly been a great blessing for the Memphis community and the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize Freddie Burns on his illustrious career as a musician and broadcaster and extend to him our best wishes for a happy birthday and 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.