

HOUSE RESOLUTION 47

By Parkinson

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Jack Ashford for being presented with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of the General Assembly should honor those exemplary individuals who have contributed significantly to Tennessee's diverse and dynamic culture, winning national and international acclaim for their endeavors in the field of music; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Jack Ashford, who as a member of the legendary Funk Brothers, is being presented with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame; and

WHEREAS, the Funk Brothers' work and the unique rattle of Ashford's tambourine can be heard on numerous Motown music tracks; most notably, Marvin Gaye's "Heard it Through the Grapevine"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ashford began his career as a young man touring in a jazz band; with it not being his instrument of choice, he reluctantly agreed to play the tambourine for the band, but eventually vowed to become the best tambourine player ever; and

WHEREAS, soon his signature tambourine sound was being sought after by music legends; Marvin Gaye witnessed Jack perform in a New York club and invited him to Motown to record a record; when Barry Gordy heard the sound, Jack was asked to become part of the studio roster; and

WHEREAS, Jack Ashford is currently the only living, touring, working Funk Brother from the original set; and

WHEREAS, his work did not stop with the Motown legends of the 1960's and 1970's; Mr. Ashford still finds time to lend his skills to the biggest names in today's music industry, including Sir Elton John; and

WHEREAS, the Hollywood star is just one of many accolades received by Jack Ashford and the Funk Brothers; in 2001, they were inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame and went on to receive a lifetime achievement award from the recording academy in 2004; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2013, the Funk Brothers will join their renowned Motown counterparts by being honored on the Hollywood Walk of Fame; and

WHEREAS, as recipients of this distinct honor, they join the ranks of notable winners that include the Supremes, Stevie Wonder, the Miracles, and Marvin Gaye; and

WHEREAS, Jack Ashford epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; this State is proud of the musical talent that Mr. Ashford was able to share with the world; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud for his dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Jack Ashford, a member of the Funk Brothers, for receiving a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, recognize the indelible mark he has left on the music industry, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success in all 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.