

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 857

By Kane

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Jimmy Greenspoon of Three Dog Night.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly was greatly saddened by the passing of Jimmy Greenspoon, an original member of the iconic American pop band Three Dog Night; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Greenspoon joined the band in 1968 and continued playing with Three Dog Night until October 2014, when he took a medical leave of absence; and

WHEREAS, Three Dog Night's eclectic taste, combined with its members' ability to recognize and record hits in a unique, distinctive, and appealing style resulted in the group's dominance of the charts for years and popularized the works of many soon-to-be famous songwriters, including Harry Nilsson, Randy Newman, Elton John, Laura Nyro, Paul Williams, and Hoyt Axton; and

WHEREAS, boasting chart success and record sales that are virtually unmatched in popular music, Three Dog Night had twenty-one consecutive top forty hits, including three number one singles, "Mama Told Me (Not to Come)," "Black and White," and "Joy to the World"; eleven top ten singles; eighteen consecutive top twenty singles; seven million-selling singles; and twelve consecutive gold albums; and

WHEREAS, Three Dog Night's hits have appeared on pop, rock, and country charts, and the group has sold tens of millions of records around the world; in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the group sold more records and more concert tickets than any other band in America; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Greenspoon was born in Los Angeles to Maury Greenspoon, a successful entrepreneur, and Mary O'Brien, a silent film actress; he was a classically trained pianist who also excelled as a pop musician; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Greenspoon started his first band while still in high school, New Dimensions, which released three records, and also formed several other bands before joining Three Dog Night; and

WHEREAS, during his wide-ranging career, Mr. Greenspoon worked as a songwriter, composer, manager, travel agent, author, and disc jockey, but he was first and foremost a brilliant keyboardist; and

WHEREAS, hailed as an inventive player who was passionate about all forms of music, Jimmy Greenspoon also worked with Linda Ronstadt, Lowell George, Chris Hillman, Redbone, Jeff Beck, Tim Bogert, Carmine Appice, Michael Lloyd, and Kim Fowley, and was a featured artist on a 2015 release with The Royal Philharmonic; and

WHEREAS, but it was his work with Three Dog Night that defined his career, and his musicianship is prominent throughout their well-known hits “One,” “Mama Told Me (Not to Come),” “Eli’s Coming,” “Joy to the World,” “Black and White,” “Shambala,” and many others; and

WHEREAS, Jimmy Greenspoon helped program the soundtrack of many American lives during the 1960s and 1970s, and he will be remembered as a great keyboardist who devoted his life to music; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Jimmy Greenspoon, reflecting fondly upon his incredible talent and his exemplary career with Three Dog Night, and extend our condolences to Mr. Greenspoon’s family and many friends and fans.

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