

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 386

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor Jerry Daniel Hutchins, Jr., accomplished musician.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of the members of this General Assembly to recognize those Tennesseans who are wholly devoted to their craft and enrich the lives of their fellow citizens through their art; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Jerry Daniel Hutchins, Jr., a supremely gifted musician whose career in music has spanned well over four decades, taking him around the world as he has accompanied and served as the opening act for some of the most legendary artists in country music; and

WHEREAS, born in Oak Ridge on July 29, 1959, Danny Hutchins revealed himself to be a music prodigy at an early age; he hummed songs before he learned to talk, and, at only two years old, he began "banging around" on the piano after watching and listening to his older sister, Holly, practicing her piano lessons; and

WHEREAS, his first performance on piano was at Davis Brothers Cafeteria in Oak Ridge when he was five years old; one year later, while playing around on the piano at home, he provided a perfect rendition of a song his sister had been practicing after only watching and listening to her play the song. When he was seven, it was discovered, as he was learning to play the Magnus Chord Organ he received for Christmas, that he had perfect pitch; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hutchins's first television performance came at age eight, when he appeared on a talent show in Knoxville called *Talent Parade*, playing piano and singing; that same year, he received his first drum set and his first guitar. He upgraded to a professional drum kit three years later and also added a bass guitar to his instrument arsenal; and

WHEREAS, a budding multi-instrumentalist by age eleven, Danny Hutchins performed at a local country music jamboree show called the Tennessee Valley Barn Dance at the WNOX Whittle Springs Auditorium in Knoxville, where he sang a song, played the piano, played a boogie-woogie rhythm tune on the bass, and ended the show with "Wipe Out" on the drums; and

WHEREAS, he continued playing at local venues and festivals, and at the age of thirteen, he landed his first professional job playing bass guitar at a resort in Townsend; at fourteen, he began playing piano with the Country Warriors, the staff band at the Tennessee Valley Barn Dance, in which capacity he backed many up-and-coming country music stars on piano and sang harmony; and

WHEREAS, after the Barn Dance ended, Mr. Hutchins joined another popular local country band called The Kountry Kings and performed regularly on the local television show *Jim Clayton's Startime*; it was with this band that he came to open for many famous country music performers at the Knoxville Coliseum, including Ronnie Milsap, Barbara Mandrell, Tom T. Hall, Mel Tillis, Marty Robbins, Don Williams, The Statler Brothers, and Johnny Paycheck; and

WHEREAS, Danny Hutchins graduated from Oak Ridge High School in 1976; at a private party performance in Knoxville that same year, he met a ventriloquist named Alex Houston, the opening act for The Charley Pride Show, who told him that Charley Pride was searching for a keyboard player who could sing. At only seventeen, he applied for the position and was hired on the spot; and

WHEREAS, for the last forty-two years, Mr. Hutchins has worked and toured with Charley Pride; during this time, he has written several songs, five of which were recorded by Mr. Pride; appeared on a variety of television shows, including *Hee Haw*, *Pop Goes the Country*, *Nashville Now*, *The Dick Cavett Discussion Show*, and *Tomorrow with Tom Snyder*, and performed for three United States presidents: President Ronald Reagan, President George Bush, Sr., and President Gerald Ford; and

WHEREAS, also as a member of Charley Pride's band, Danny Hutchins has performed throughout Canada and the United States; in England, Scotland, and Ireland on seventeen tours; in Australia and New Zealand on twelve tours; and in Germany, Norway, France, Sweden, the Fiji Islands, the Bahamas, Barbados, Holland, the Cayman Islands, and Bermuda, in addition to several USO tours to Navy bases in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Antigua, Honduras, and Panama; and

WHEREAS, even with all his success, Mr. Hutchins has never forgotten where he comes from; he has given many individual performances for Oak Ridge and area community organizations, including the Annual Lavender Festival, the East Tennessee Farmer's Market, and the Methodist Medical Center Cardio/Pulmonary Rehabilitation Center; he has also performed for local radio stations in Anderson, Loudon, and Knox counties; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause to honor Danny Hutchins, a musician of the highest order who has brought much pride to his home state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize and honor Jerry Daniel Hutchins, Jr., for his accomplished career in music, extending our best wishes to him for much continued success 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.