

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1221

By Maggart

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Harold Ray Bradley
upon being inducted into the Country Music Hall
of Fame.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud to formally recognize those talented musicians whose influence on and participation in a genre of music is of great import and whose talent has set them apart as the finest of American artists; and

WHEREAS, veteran guitarist Harold Ray Bradley is one such musician who is widely renowned for his prolific recordings, studio achievements, and industry leadership; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the impact he has had on the genre of country music, Harold Bradley was formally inducted into the prestigious Country Music Hall of Fame by the Country Music Association in 2006; and

WHEREAS, born on January 2, 1926, in Nashville, Harold Bradley first took an interest in the banjo, but his brother, the late Owen Bradley, steered him toward guitar; by 1943, Harold Bradley was playing amplified jazz guitar and acquired his first job playing lead guitar with Ernest Tubb's Texas Troubadours; and

WHEREAS, from 1944 to 1946, he proudly served his country as a member of the United States Navy during World War II; he then headed home to Nashville to study music; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bradley's first country recording session came in 1946, when he recorded with Pee Wee King's Golden West Cowboys in Chicago; his acoustic rhythm guitar opened Red Foley's 1950 smash hit "Chattanooga Shoe Shine Boy," which jumped to number one on both the country and pop charts; and

WHEREAS, though a capable lead guitarist, Harold Bradley's studio specialty has been rhythm work; on many sessions he lent his musical talents to a studio-triumvirate with lead specialists Hank Garland and Grady Martin; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bradley's rhythm playing has been an essential contribution to a host of popular songs such as Roy Orbison's 1961 number two pop hit, "Crying,"; and

WHEREAS, shining in lead parts as well, Harold Bradley played the opening banjo notes on Johnny Horton's 1959 hit "The Battle of New Orleans"; his electric bass guitar work was instrumental to hits such as Patsy Cline's "Crazy"; and

WHEREAS, Harold Bradley has lent his sound and expertise to hundreds of hit recordings, including Eddy Arnold's "Make the World Go Away," Don Gibson's "Oh Lonesome Me," Brenda Lee's "I'm Sorry," and Roger Miller's "King of the Road"; in addition, he contributed to such hits as Ray Price's "Danny Boy," Jeannie C. Riley's "Harper Valley P.T.A.," Bobby Vinton's "Blue Velvet," Burl Ives's "Holly Jolly Christmas," Faron Young's "Hello Walls," Tammy Wynette's "Stand by Your Man," and Conway Twitty's "Hello Darlin"; and

WHEREAS, Harold Bradley's professional expertise led him and Owen Bradley to open two small Nashville recording studios in the early 1950s, and eventually the two brothers opened Bradley Film and Recording on Sixteenth Avenue South in 1955; they soon added a second studio, using a military Quonset hut; and

WHEREAS, the Bradley studios were instrumental in the birth of the pop-influenced Nashville Sound; yielding their share of pop and rock hits, the studios also served as a workshop in which hard-country singers retooled their music for an evolving marketplace where country competed with rock-and-roll and pop; and

WHEREAS, in the 1980s, Harold Bradley toured with Floyd Cramer and served as bandleader for Slim Whitman; he also produced Irish country singer Sandy Kelly and Eddy Arnold's later RCA albums; and

WHEREAS, highly regarded by his peers, Mr. Bradley became the first president of Nashville's chapter of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences; in 1991, he began his long service as president of Nashville's chapter of the American Federation of Musicians, and later served as that organization's international vice president; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Bradley has received the American Federation of Musicians Lifetime Achievement Award; he continues to lend his professional expertise as a producer at Bradley's Barn Recording Studios; and

WHEREAS, he is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Eleanor Allen; he is the proud father of daughters, Beverly Bradley and Bari Allen Bradley Brooks, and also enjoys the company of his grandchildren, Bethany Hill and Reed Brooks; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bradley is a Tennessean of whom all Tennesseans can be proud, and he should be justly recognized as a legend of country music, one who helped shape the musical genre while entertaining countless fans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Harold Ray Bradley upon his 2006 induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame as we celebrate the significant contributions he has made to the growth of country music.

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