

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 138

By Towns

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Lisa Marie Presley.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely passing of Lisa Marie Presley; and

WHEREAS, a noted singer-songwriter, humanitarian, and philanthropist, Ms. Presley withstood the pressures of an inherited spotlight to forge a life uniquely her own, one filled with love, art, compassion, and family; and

WHEREAS, born in Memphis on February 1, 1968, Lisa Marie Presley was the only child of Elvis Aaron Presley and Priscilla Beaulieu Presley; she resided at Graceland until the age of five, when she moved to Los Angeles with her mother; and

WHEREAS, though she became a resident of the Golden State, she made frequent visits to Memphis, where her father doted on her, once flying her in a private jet to Idaho so she could see snow for the first time and play in it for an hour; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, at the age of twenty-five, Ms. Presley inherited the Elvis Presley Trust, which included a business company and the Elvis Presley Charitable Foundation (EPCF), through which she continued her father's tradition of generosity and community service; and

WHEREAS, Lisa Marie Presley's philanthropic legacy includes opening Presley Place, which provides homeless families up to one year of rent-free housing, child care, and career and financial counseling, among various other services; she also helped create the EPCF's Elvis Presley Endowed Scholarship Fund at the College of Communication & Fine Arts at the University of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Presley was very active in the relief efforts after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans and surrounding areas; she also became involved with Oprah Winfrey's Angel Network and the Dream Factory, a London, England-based charity that grants the wishes of terminally ill children and those with life-threatening illnesses or disabilities; and

WHEREAS, she took part in the Grammy Foundation's Gold Grammy Signature Schools program, which recognizes top public high schools that are making an outstanding commitment to music education, and in 2005, she participated in a Grammy SoundCheck, during which she and other industry professionals met with a group of music students to discuss career opportunities in music; and

WHEREAS, Lisa Marie Presley's own music career began in earnest in 1997, when, to mark the twentieth anniversary of Elvis's death, she appeared in a music video for "Don't Cry Daddy," which she sang with her father, her vocals laid over his original recording; and

WHEREAS, she then signed a record deal and spent the next five years preparing her debut album, *To Whom It May Concern* (2003); Ms. Presley penned virtually all of the lyrics for the album and co-wrote the music; and

WHEREAS, the album reached No. 5 on the charts in the United States, selling more than half a million copies, and the single "Lights Out" reached No. 18; and

WHEREAS, her second album, *Now What* (2005), reached No. 9 in the charts, and her cover of Don Henley's "Dirty Laundry" became a hit single; in 2006, she appeared in the popular, celebrity-studded video for a cover of the traditional "God's Gonna Cut You Down," which her father had recorded as "Run On"; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her music and her philanthropic work, Lisa Marie Presley was also wholly devoted to her family and always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, left to cherish her memory are her mother and her three daughters, Danielle Riley Keough, Harper Vivienne Anne Lockwood, and Finley Aaron Love Lockwood; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her father, she was preceded in death by her son, Benjamin Storm Presley Keough; and

WHEREAS, Lisa Marie Presley leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Lisa Marie Presley, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the we extend our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Ms. Presley.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.