

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 526

By Beck

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Grand Ole Opry member John Conlee on the celebration of his seventy-fifth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pay tribute to those country music legends who are celebrating special occasions in their lives; and

WHEREAS, John Conlee will celebrate his seventy-fifth birthday on August 11, 2021, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Grand Ole Opry since 1981, John Conlee also marks his fortieth anniversary of performing on the Opry stage this year; and

WHEREAS, John Conlee recorded a total of thirty-two singles that appeared on the *Billboard* Hot Country Songs charts and recorded eleven studio albums between 1978 and 2004, including seven number-one hits, "Lady Lay Down," "Backside of Thirty," "Common Man," "I'm Only in It for the Love," "In My Eyes," "As Long As I'm Rockin' with You," and "Got My Heart Set on You"; and

WHEREAS, John Conlee placed fourteen additional singles in the *Billboard* Top Ten, including his debut hit, "Rose Colored Glasses" (a number-five hit in 1978), "Busted," "Working Man," and "I Don't Remember Loving You"; and

WHEREAS, this country music legend still stirs the hall to the rafters with his biggest hits, as well as his more recent salute to the families of American fighting troops on "They Also Serve"; and

WHEREAS, John Conlee raised more than \$140,000, one dollar at a time, for Feed the Children from the dollar bills tossed on the stage when he sang his hit version of "Busted"; he still collects donations from fans during that song's performance, currently channeling the money to the benefit of Wounded Warriors; and

WHEREAS, a stalwart supporter of the working men and women of this country, he was instrumental in the formation of the Family Farm Defense Fund and helped organize and entertain at Farm Aid concerts that raised more than thirteen million dollars in grants; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of country music's greatest stars on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate John Conlee on the celebration of his seventy-fifth birthday and his fortieth anniversary with the Grand Ole Opry and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

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.