

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 717

By Lynn

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Collin Raye on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the release of his first album.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to commend those exceptional artists who, through their extraordinary musical talents, have earned the respect and admiration of their peers and fans alike; and

WHEREAS, one such accomplished individual is recording artist Collin Raye, who is celebrating twenty-five years as a country music entertainer and the anniversary of the release of his first album; and

WHEREAS, born on August 22, 1960, in De Queen, Arkansas, Collin Raye's passionate, soulful delivery has led to twenty-four top ten records and sixteen number one hits; and

WHEREAS, among his biggest hit songs are "Love, Me," "That Was a River," "Little Rock," "My Kind of Girl," and "That's My Story," to name but a few; and

WHEREAS, his success at the top of the charts led to ten male vocalist of the year nominations by the Country Music Association and the Academy of Country Music; and

WHEREAS, a staunch advocate of advancing social causes, Collin Raye has lent his support to several worthy organizations, including the Special Olympics, Parade of Pennies, Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, The Tennessee Task Force Against Domestic Violence, and Al-Anon; and

WHEREAS, his single, "Little Rock," discussed the subject of addiction recovery, and inspired over 100,000 calls to Alcoholics Anonymous from listeners seeking help in their addictions; and

WHEREAS, perhaps dearest and closest to his heart is the organization he founded with his daughter after the loss of a beloved grandchild, The Haley Bell Blessed Chair Foundation. The Foundation supports and assists families of the cognitively and physically disabled, providing wheelchairs and other necessary medical equipment; and

WHEREAS, a longtime Nashville resident who released his autobiography in 2014, Collin Raye celebrates twenty-five years of award-winning music in 2016, and he continues to record and write; and

WHEREAS, Collin Raye's influence on country music is truly incomparable, with his music serving as an inspiration to artists, musicians, and fans alike; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Collin Raye for his many contributions to country 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 and congratulate Collin Raye on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the release of his first album, salute his talent as a performing artist and entertainer, and recognize his singular contributions to 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.