

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 790

By Faison

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend George Gruhn for his invaluable contributions to Music City.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we recognize those individuals whose vision, passion, and work ethic are driving forces behind the success of not only local and state economies but also of thriving arts communities; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is George Gruhn, founder of Gruhn Guitars in Nashville, the world's premier vintage guitar store; and

WHEREAS, touted as knowing "more about vintage guitars than anyone on earth" by *Guitar Player* editor Tom Wheeler, Mr. Gruhn moved to Nashville in 1969 after earning his bachelor's degree from the University of Chicago and doing graduate work at Duke University and the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, on January 2, 1970, he opened Gruhn Guitars at 111 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North in Nashville with an inventory of twenty-two instruments; although his business acumen was in its early stages, his passion for vintage instruments carried the store through to success and multiple relocations, to 410 Broadway, 400 Broadway, and, in June 2013, its current home at 2120 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue South; and

WHEREAS, in its large, customized edifice of the past decade, Gruhn Guitars displays an inventory of more than 1,100 guitars, basses, mandolins, banjos, ukuleles, and amplifiers, while also providing expert inspection, appraisal, and repair, which is done primarily by hand using century-old techniques; and

WHEREAS, Gruhn Guitars is also the sole dealer from which customers can purchase their very own Gruhn Versitar acoustic guitar, designed by Mr. Gruhn himself and featuring a western red cedar top and East Indian rosewood back and sides; and

WHEREAS, George Gruhn's vision and passion helped grow his guitar shop into one of the largest, most respected dealers of vintage and used instruments in the world, with clientele including Eric Clapton, Neil Young, Johnny Cash, Lyle Lovett, Vince Gill, George Harrison, and Paul McCartney, to name but a few; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gruhn is often sought out for his expertise and guidance; he has been a featured columnist for various publications over the years, such as *Vintage Guitar*, *Guitar Player*, *Pickin'*, *Frets*, and *Bluegrass Unlimited*; is the former vice president of research and development for Guild Guitars; and has designed several models for Tacoma guitars; and

WHEREAS, he is also the co-author of *Gruhn's Guide to Vintage Guitars*, a comprehensive field guide to vintage fretted instruments, as well as the companion volumes, *Acoustic Guitars and Other Fretted Instruments* and *Electric Guitars and Basses*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gruhn is also known for his private collection of snakes; something of a herpetologist himself, he took an interest in the reptiles in college and even uses the scientific classifications as a framework to think about and classify musical instruments; and

WHEREAS, George Gruhn is a world-renowned guitar guru and a true Tennessee treasure who has brought great honor and pride to this State; 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 recognize and commend George Gruhn of Nashville's iconic Gruhn Guitars, extending our best wishes for his continued success.

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.