

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 12

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor Jim Ed Brown on his 50th Anniversary
as a member of the Grand Ole Opry.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause in our deliberations to salute the lives and accomplishments of our most prominent citizens; and

WHEREAS, Jim Ed Brown is one such estimable Tennessean who has brought much fame and honor to this state through his notable endeavors in country music; and

WHEREAS, on April 1, 1934, James Edward Brown was born to Floyd Brown and Birdie Lee Tuberville Brown in Sparkman, Arkansas, where he would grow up as one of five siblings, namely Maxine, Bonnie, Norma, and Raymond, who enjoyed listening to the Grand Ole Opry every Saturday night on a battery-powered radio; and

WHEREAS, marveling at the wonderful vocal harmonies resounding from the radio, Jim Ed Brown's own skillful vocal styling would launch him onto the legendary stage of the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville and eventually Opry membership on August 12, 1963; and

WHEREAS, joined by his older sister Maxine, Jim Ed Brown began his illustrious career as a duo while in college, thrilling listeners with their wonderful harmonies as the two became regular members of the "Barnyard Frolic" on KLRA in Little Rock, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, in early 1954, Jim Ed and Maxine Brown penned their first hit record, "Looking Back To See", which brought them national attention, membership on The Louisiana Hayride, and the tremendous opportunity to join the legendary Red Foley as featured regulars on his Ozark Jubilee in 1955; and

WHEREAS, joined by sister Bonnie in late 1955, the trio became known as "The Browns" and scored another top-10 hit, "Here Today and Gone Tomorrow", and signed with a

major record label, RCA Victor, in 1956 before charting two number-one songs, "I Take The Chance" and "I Heard The Bluebird Sing"; and

WHEREAS, after proudly serving a two-year stint in the United States Armed Forces, Jim Ed Brown returned to the stage with his sisters in 1959 as the group enjoyed their best-selling record of all time, "The Three Bells", which sold over a million copies and became the first country song to cross over to number one on the pop and rhythm-and-blues charts; and

WHEREAS, rising to national acclaim due to the chart-topping hit, touring with Elvis Presley, and winning Vocal Group of the Year honors eight times, The Browns scored hits with "The Old Lamplighter" and "Scarlet Ribbons" and in 1963 became the newest members of the world famous Grand Ole Opry; and

WHEREAS, the group made a number of network television appearances on such historic shows as the Ed Sullivan Show, American Bandstand, the Arthur Murray Show, the Jack Frost Show in England, and Boy Meets Girl in England; and

WHEREAS, as time marched on, Maxine and Bonnie Brown retired from the road to raise their families and Jim Ed Brown became a solo performer, continuing to thrill fans with his tremendous country hits "Pop-A-Top Again," "Southern Loving," "Sometime Sunshine," and "Morning" through the late 1960s and early 1970s; and

WHEREAS, his natural charm and top-shelf showmanship helped him to expand his career into television as co-host of the syndicated weekly television series, "Nashville On The Road" for six seasons, which led to his selection as the national advertising spokesman for Dollar General Stores; and

WHEREAS, the 1970s also saw Jim Ed Brown partner with Helen Cornelius to form one of the most beloved country duets of all time, taking the charts by storm with such number one hits as "I Don't Want To Have To Marry You" and "Saying Hello, Saying I Love You, Saying Goodbye" and winning the 1976 Country Music Association's Duo of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, the 1980s saw Mr. Brown expand his television career as a host with various programs on The Nashville Network, including Nashville On the Road, The County

Place, Going Our Way, and You Can Be a Star, as he hosted this last show from 1983 to 1989; and

WHEREAS, a versatile and accomplished entertainer, Jim Ed Brown is still quite active in America's music scene; he continues to play the Opry, tour the country presenting his down-to-earth brand of family entertainment to an ever-growing legion of fans; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Jim Ed Brown is wholly committed to perpetuating the highest standards of family and community values; and

WHEREAS, he is most grateful for the loving companionship of his wife Rebecca Sue Perry Brown, and is the devoted father of Jim Ed Brown Jr. and Kimberly Brown Summer and proud grandfather of five treasured grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Jim Ed Brown is truly a living legend in country music, he has long served as an excellent ambassador for Tennessee and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join with the family, friends, colleagues, and fans of Jim Ed Brown in celebrating his magnificent career and countless accomplishments in country music; including 50 years as a member of the Grand Ole Opry, and express our best wishes to him 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.