

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 623

By Campbell

A RESOLUTION to honor Eric Hamilton upon his many accomplishments in music.

WHEREAS, we take great pleasure in recognizing a Nashville resident who has been described as "a charismatic singer, a talented songwriter, and a 'must see' performer"; and

WHEREAS, Eric Hamilton was born on September 30, 1967, to young parents, Cathy and Elliot Hamilton, in Port Gibson, Mississippi, and attended Chamberlin Hunt Academy; and

WHEREAS, as an adolescent, he began traveling to Nashville often to spend time with his stepfather, Mike Daniel, who was a recording engineer, and the young Eric soon decided to pursue music as a career; and

WHEREAS, Eric Hamilton formed a duo called Captain Freaky Deaky with J.W. Younger (Jeff Williams) as a teenager; the duo was transformed into a full-fledged band in the early 1990s, when J.W. Younger, Sweepy Walker, Jake Byers, Jeff Armstrong, and Boo McAfee began playing alongside him in the Eric Hamilton Band; and

WHEREAS, the Eric Hamilton Band quickly found a rabid following in the Music City, and their energetic and entertaining shows were invariably sold out; in 1996, Curb/Atlantic won the race to sign the band to a recording contract; and

WHEREAS, the Eric Hamilton Band's debut album, *Keep the Change*, was released that same year, and the band embarked on a Herculean tour, dubbed the 50/50 (Handful of Dirt Tour), that featured a show in every state in the U.S. in a time span of fifty days, inspiring some fans to refer to them as "touring monsters"; and

WHEREAS, the Eric Hamilton Band even served as the house band on the *Jenny Jones Show*; and

WHEREAS, the current lineup of the Eric Hamilton Band includes Eric Hamilton, Sweepy Walker, Dave Harrison, Raymond Arias, Max Ratliff, and Ethan Pilzer; and

WHEREAS, Eric Hamilton also formed a combination rock and bluegrass band, Sheriff Reno Hamilton, with Duck and Dale Reno and Sweepy Walker, and the group recorded an incredible album titled *Sixteen*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hamilton co-wrote "I'm Back" with Edwin McCain, and Mr. McCain's recording of the song was nominated for the Oscar for Best Original Song; sadly, they lost out to "some guy named Justin Timberlake"; and

WHEREAS, a man of many talents, he wrote, directed, produced, wrote and performed the soundtrack, and starred in *Five of Spades*, an award-winning short film; and

WHEREAS, Eric Hamilton co-starred in *Dragon Song*, a film written and produced by John Carter Cash, and received awards for his acting at two film festivals; and

WHEREAS, an avid hunter and lover of the outdoors, Mr. Hamilton enjoys volunteering at his children's school, gardening, woodworking, making knives, painting, and any other activity through which he can create and cultivate; and

WHEREAS, Eric Hamilton is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with the love of his life and his wife, Lauren O'Keefe; children, Taylor Scarborough, Coletrane Alexander, and Tess Hamilton; and his siblings, Chad and Robyn and Buck, Aaron, Chesney, and Haley; and

WHEREAS, Eric Hamilton is a gifted singer and songwriter who is revered throughout the music industry, and he is richly deserving of our approbation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Eric Hamilton upon his many accomplishments as a singer,

songwriter, band leader, filmmaker, and actor and extend to him our best wishes for much continued happiness and 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.