

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 25

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to recognize Felix Cavaliere for his musical achievements.

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 musician is Felix Cavaliere, an artist whose influence on popular music as a singer, songwriter, musician, and producer spans the generations; and

WHEREAS, born on November 29, 1942, in Pelham, New York, Felix Cavaliere studied music from a young age, dedicating himself to piano lessons three times a week between the ages of six and fourteen; and

WHEREAS, during that time, the pioneering soul music of Ray Charles and Fats Domino figured prominently among his emerging musical influences; and

WHEREAS, Felix Cavaliere formed his first band, The Stereos, while he was still in his teens; this early musical collaboration is when he began to hone his rich and soulful vocal style; it was also during this time that he discovered the Hammond B-3 organ, which would later become an integral part of his signature sound; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from high school, Mr. Cavaliere attended Syracuse University for two years before forming his next band, The Escorts. He moved to New York City and landed his first professional job as a backup musician for Sandy Scott, and later with Joey Dee and the Starlites; and

WHEREAS, The Rascals (initially known as "The Young Rascals") formed in early 1965, and the founding members were Felix Cavaliere, vocalist Eddie Brigati, guitarist Gene Cornish,

and drummer Dino Danelli. Their unique sound was soon noticed at Manhattan's Phone Booth nightclub, and the band was signed by Atlantic Records to showcase their "crossover" appeal to audiences; and

WHEREAS, The Rascals' second single, "Good Lovin'," became the number one hit in the nation in March 1966, and was soon followed by several other chart toppers, including "You Better Run" and "I've Been Lonely Too Long"; and

WHEREAS, throughout the 1960s, the sound of The Rascals evolved, inspired largely by the cultural changes of that era; their sound shifted toward the more atmospheric approach heard in such songs as "Groovin'," which rose to number one in the spring of 1967, "People Got to Be Free," topping the charts for five weeks in 1968, "How Can I Be Sure," "It's Wonderful," and "A Beautiful Morning"; the band's last album, *The Island of Real*, was released in 1972; and

WHEREAS, Felix Cavaliere's first solo album, the eponymously titled *Felix Cavaliere*, was released in 1974; his next album featured Leslie West, Buzz Feiten, and former Rascal Dino Danelli; released in 1975, the LP, *Destiny*, produced the single "Never Felt Love Before"; and

WHEREAS, his 1979 release, *Castles in the Air*, featured legendary rhythm-and-blues singer Luther Vandross on backing vocals and marked the return of ex-Rascal brothers Eddie and David Brigati; and

WHEREAS, many projects followed, including musical collaborations with his daughters, Christina, Laura, and Aria; and

WHEREAS, 1995 saw Felix Cavaliere touring the United States and Japan with Ringo Starr and His All-Starr Band, alongside such musical luminaries as Mark Farner, Billy Preston, Mark Rivera, Randy Bachman, and Zak Starkey; Mr. Cavaliere is featured singing "People Got to Be Free" on the Blockbuster Exclusive CD, which was recorded live in Japan; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, Mr. Cavaliere, together with the former members of The Rascals, was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, one of the highest forms of recognition a musician can receive; and

WHEREAS, Felix Cavaliere teamed with fellow Rock and Roll Hall of Fame member Steve Cropper in 2008; their innovative collaboration, *Nudge It Up a Notch*, garnered a 2009 Grammy nomination for the song “Love Appetite”; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cavaliere’s extraordinary accomplishments as a songwriter were recognized in June of 2009, when he was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, Felix Cavaliere reunited with his bandmates from The Rascals to appear at the Capitol Theatre in Port Chester, New York, for six shows, and for fifteen dates at The Richard Rodgers Theatre on Broadway from April 15 to May 5, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the band’s reunion show, titled *Once Upon a Dream*, was produced by longtime Rascals fans, Steven Van Zandt and his wife, Maureen; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cavaliere was further honored in 2014, with his induction into the Hammond Organ Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, a longtime Nashville resident, Mr. Cavaliere celebrates fifty years of award-winning music in 2015, and he continues to record, write, produce, and perform with his group, Felix Cavaliere’s Rascals; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cavaliere’s influence on American music is truly incomparable, with his music serving as an inspiration to generations of artists, musicians, and fans alike; and

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Felix Cavaliere for his many contributions to popular 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 commend Felix Cavaliere on the occasion of his fiftieth year as a recording artist, salute his talent as a performing artist and entertainer, and recognize his singular contributions to popular music.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.