

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY REPRESENTATIVE FRANKLIN

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Shelton Dunaway for his musical achievements and recognizes him as a southwest La. cultural treasure

1 A RESOLUTION

2 To commend Shelton Dunaway for his musical achievements and recognize him as a
3 southwest Louisiana cultural treasure.

4 WHEREAS, Shelton Dunaway was born in 1934 in Monroe, Louisiana, spent most
5 his life in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and began his musical journey playing in the notable
6 band "Classie Ballou and His Tempo Kings"; and

7 WHEREAS, Shelton Dunaway married Katherine Dominique in 1955 and had three
8 sons, Travis, Gerald, and Christopher; and

9 WHEREAS, Shelton Dunaway was a major influence on swamp pop music, a
10 southwest Louisiana-styled rhythm and blues created in the 1950s and recorded by both
11 black and white musicians of predominantly Creole and Cajun heritage; and

12 WHEREAS, in the summer of 1952, Shelton Dunaway, Earnest Jacob, Marshall
13 LeDee, and Simon "Kee-Dee" Lubin formed their original group the "Boogie Ramblers";
14 and

15 WHEREAS, the group expanded with members Joe "Blue" Landry, Ivory Jackson,
16 Huey "Cookie" Thierry, Sydney "Hot Rod" Reynaud, and Lil' Alfred Babino and became
17 known as "Cookie and the Cupcakes"; and

18 WHEREAS, other band members joined the group over the years including Gerald
19 Dunaway, Shelton Dunaway's son, as drummer; and

20 WHEREAS, Shelton Dunaway helped to define the "swamp pop" sound indigenous
21 to southwest Louisiana with the hit, "Mathilda", which was released by local record producer

1 George Khoury, appeared on the Billboard music charts in 1959, and went on to become an
2 uncontested anthem for the southwest Louisiana region; and

3 WHEREAS, Shelton Dunaway performed on notable songs such as "Betty and
4 Dupree" and "Got You on My Mind", recorded with singer Carol Fran on her stunning cover
5 of the Platters' "The Great Pretender", and backed Phil Phillips on his timeless ballad "Sea
6 of Love", which hit number one on the Billboard music charts in 1959; and

7 WHEREAS, in 1992, Shelton Dunaway, Earnest Jacob, Marshal LeDee, and Huey
8 "Cookie" Thierry reunited the "Cupcakes" and secured prestigious bookings at the New
9 Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival and Festival International de Louisiana, as well as a
10 high-profile appearance in the Netherlands at the Blues Estafette in Utrecht; and

11 WHEREAS, it is the privilege of all residents of Louisiana to honor and remember
12 the outstanding cultural musical contributions of Shelton Dunaway.

13 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
14 Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Shelton Dunaway for his musical
15 achievements and recognize him as a southwest Louisiana cultural treasure.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted
17 to Shelton Dunaway.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HR 34 Original

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Commends Shelton Dunaway for his musical achievements and contributions to swamp pop music, and recognizes him as a southwest La. cultural treasure.