

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 34

BY REPRESENTATIVE FRANKLIN

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Shelton Dunaway helped to define the "swamp pop" sound indigenous to southwest Louisiana with the hit, "Mathilda", which was released by local record producer George Khoury, appeared on the Billboard music charts in 1959, and went on to become an uncontested anthem for the southwest Louisiana region; and

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

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

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

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

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

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES