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2019 Regular Session

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SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 132

BY SENATOR PEACOCK

COMMENDATIONS. Commends music legend James Burton of Shreveport, on the occasion of his eightieth birthday.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION To commend James Burton for an outstanding career of over sixty years as a performer, musician, and a Louisiana music legend and to congratulate him on the occasion of his eightieth birthday. WHEREAS, born in Dubberly, Louisiana, on August 21, 1939, James Edward Burton grew up in Shreveport; he received his first guitar as a youngster and was playing professionally by the age of fourteen; he was a self-taught musical phenomenon; and WHEREAS, as he listened to KWKH radio, he was influenced by popular guitarists of the day, such as Chet Atkins, Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, Elmore James, Lightnin' Hopkins and many others whose genres covered Rock and Roll, Delta Blues, and Country music; and WHEREAS, James was required to obtain a special permit to play in nightclubs due to his age, however, his guitar playing showed such promise that he was asked to join the "staff band" of the legendary radio show, the Louisiana Hayride, and he played backup for the likes of George Jones, Billy Walker, and Johnny Horton and within a few years, James would be a headliner at the show; and WHEREAS, he honed his craft on a variety of guitar types that included acoustic, steel guitar, slide dobro, and electric styles like Fender Telecasters; no matter who played lead guitar, James Burton had the guitar "licks" to complement the lead note for note; and

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2	he made his mark in the world as one of the most prolific recording session musicians that
3	ever lived and performed as "specialty" artist on thousands of recordings; and
4	WHEREAS, not every recording was an instant hit, however, Burton created a guitar
5	solo on Dale Hawkins' 1957 hit song, "Susie Q", a recording that made the list of the "500
6	Songs that Shaped Rock and Roll" published by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; and
7	WHEREAS, his playing style was very distinct; he used a straight pick and a finger
8	pick on his middle finger; he replaced the first four guitar strings with banjo strings which
9	allowed him to bend the strings to create his legendary "chickin' pickin" sound; and
10	WHEREAS, James was a much sought after musician who has performed with the
11	Everly Brothers, Dean Martin, Johnny Cash, Bobby Darin, and anyone else who he could
12	fit into his session schedule; and
13	WHEREAS, he performed as a band member with Ricky Nelson, Emmylou Harris,
14	John Denver, Jerry Lee Lewis, Glen Campbell, Elvis Costello, and a host of others; and
15	WHEREAS, fifty years ago, in 1969, James joined Elvis Presley, organized his band,
16	served as its leader, and backed Elvis until his death in 1977; while in concert, if Elvis
17	exclaimed, "Play it, James," that was his cue for a superb guitar solo; and
18	WHEREAS, Burton has a well-deserved reputation as one of the finest guitar
19	musicians in either country or rock and perhaps he is one of the best guitar players to ever
20	touch a fretboard; he is ranked number 19 in the list of the 100 Greatest Guitarists published
21	by Rolling Stone Magazine; and
22	WHEREAS, James Burton is truly a legend in American music; he is a member of
23	the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (2001); he is a recognized guitarist by the Rockabilly Hall
24	of Fame and the Musicians Hall of Fame and Museum (2007); he won a Grammy for Best
25	Country Instrumental Performance (2009); he was inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall
26	of Fame (2009); and he was inducted into the Louisiana Folklife Center Hall of Master Folk
27	Artists (2018); and
28	WHEREAS, James uses his music and his talents to promote the James Burton
29	International Guitar Festival, a three-day festival with featured guest musicians; the event
30	is a fund raiser for the James Burton Foundation, a nonprofit organization that raises funds

WHEREAS, while still a teenager, he left home for Los Angeles, California, where

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needed to provide musical instruments and scholarships to deserving children, young adults, 1 2 and veterans; and 3 WHEREAS, James Burton owes a large portion of his success to his loving wife, 4 Louise; she is his rock, his strength during stressful times, and his soulmate; Louise has made a home for them, a place to return to after grueling months on the road, a safe haven 5 6 filled with joy and shared memories of their wonderful life together; and 7 WHEREAS, James Burton spent a lifetime touring with famous bands, performing 8 in recording sessions, sometimes without recognition; playing his guitars from morning until 9 night, however, he never tired of the thrill of live performances or recording sessions that 10 laid down a chart-busting track that was assured to be a number one hit. 11 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 12 commend Louisiana music legend, James Burton of Shreveport on the occasion of his 13 eightieth birthday on August 21, 2019. 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby 15 acknowledge that James Burton is a living legend and does hereby commend him on his many outstanding accomplishments and for sharing his music throughout the state of 16 Louisiana, the nation, and the world. 17 18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to 19 Mr. James E. Burton. The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part

of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Suzi Montague.

DIGEST 2019 Regular Session

SCR 132 Original

Peacock

Commends Louisiana music legend, James Burton of Shreveport, on the occasion of his 80th birthday.