

2012 SESSION

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 429

Offered February 22, 2012

Commending Dr. Ralph Stanley.

Patrons—Johnson, Crockett-Stark, Howell, W.J., Kilgore, Morefield, O'Quinn, Rush, Scott, J.M. and Yost; Senators: Puckett and Carrico

WHEREAS, Dr. Ralph Stanley, a legendary figure in the music industry whose renditions of traditional mountain music have earned him international acclaim and a 2012 Grammy Award nomination, will celebrate his 85th birthday on February 25, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ralph Stanley's album, entitled *A Mother's Prayer*, was nominated in the category of Best Bluegrass Album, along with such industry giants as Alison Krauss and Union Station, Steve Martin and The Steep Canyon Rangers, Jim Lauderdale, The Del McCoury Band, and Chris Thile and Michael Daves; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ralph Stanley recorded the album's songs, a collection of Appalachian spirituals, deep in the hollows of Southwest Virginia, reaching back to his roots and early experiences singing at church; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ralph Stanley's remarkable career has spanned seven decades, from singing in church to playing alongside his brother, Carter, as part of the Stanley Brothers, to performing with his Clinch Mountain Boys at venues as varied as the Grand Ole Opry and local Ruritan Clubs; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Ralph Stanley continues to reside in Southwest Virginia, where the Ralph Stanley Museum and Traditional Mountain Music Center chronicles his life and career and where fans gather every spring to enjoy his Hills of Home Bluegrass Festival; and

WHEREAS, the recipient of numerous awards and accolades, Dr. Ralph Stanley has enjoyed great success as a musician while bringing international attention to the unique sounds of traditional mountain music, an integral part of the Commonwealth's and nation's cultural heritage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Dr. Ralph Stanley on his remarkable career and 2012 Grammy nomination on the occasion of his 85th birthday; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Dr. Ralph Stanley as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and respect for his contributions to preserving and sharing the musical heritage of Southwest Virginia with the world.

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