

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 97

Sponsors: Senators Dalton; Albertson, Hoyle, and Purcell.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

February 12, 2007

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING NORTH CAROLINA NATIVES DON
2 GIBSON AND EARL SCRUGGS.

3 Whereas, the State of North Carolina has served as the birthplace of
4 numerous legendary artists, such as Cleveland County-born Don Gibson, singer and
5 songwriter, and Earl Scruggs, singer and banjo player; and

6 Whereas, Don Gibson began his career with a Shelby band known as The
7 Sons of Soil and recorded his first number one hit, "Oh Lonesome Me," in 1958; and

8 Whereas, Don Gibson had more than 80 charted records between 1956 and
9 1980 and wrote the song "I Can't Stop Loving You," which has been recorded more than
10 700 times by such artists as Elvis Presley and Ray Charles and has sold more than 30
11 million records worldwide; and

12 Whereas, Don Gibson was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of
13 Fame in 1973 and the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2001; and

14 Whereas, Don Gibson died on November 17, 2003, at the age of 75; and

15 Whereas, Earl Eugene Scruggs was born on January 6, 1924, in Flint Hill,
16 North Carolina, to George Scruggs and Lula Ruppe Scruggs; and

17 Whereas, Earl Scruggs was born into a family of talented musicians,
18 including his mother, who played the organ, his father, who played the banjo and fiddle,
19 and his siblings, who played the banjo and guitar; and

20 Whereas, Earl Scruggs began playing the banjo at the young age of four; and

21 Whereas, between school and working on the family farm, Earl Scruggs spent
22 all his free time mastering the banjo; and

23 Whereas, at the age of 10, Earl Scruggs developed and began using his own
24 unique three-fingered technique to play the banjo which would later become known as
25 "Scruggs-Style Picking" and would be adopted by numerous banjo players around the
26 country; and

27 Whereas, as a young man, Earl Scruggs worked in a textile mill to help
28 support his widowed mother; and

1 Whereas, in 1945, Earl Scruggs joined Bill Monroe's Bluegrass Boys, a band
2 whose members included Bill Monroe on mandolin, Lester Flatt on guitar, Chubby
3 Wise on fiddle, and Cedric Rainwater on bass; and

4 Whereas, Earl Scruggs recorded a number of songs with the Bluegrass Boys
5 before leaving the band in 1948; and

6 Whereas, Earl Scruggs later teamed up with Lester Flatt and formed the band
7 The Foggy Mountain Boys; and

8 Whereas, The Foggy Mountain Boys became members of the Grand Ole
9 Opry in 1955; and

10 Whereas, Earl Scruggs and The Foggy Mountain Boys produced such widely
11 recognized tunes as "Foggy Mountain Breakdown," which was used in the 1967 film
12 "Bonnie and Clyde," and "Dueling Banjos," which was used in the 1972 film
13 "Deliverance," and "Ballad of Jed Clampett," which was the theme song for the TV
14 show "The Beverly Hillbillies"; and

15 Whereas, in 1967, the "Ballad of Jed Clampett" became the first bluegrass
16 song to reach the number one spot on the country music charts; and

17 Whereas, The Foggy Mountain Boys was one of the most successful
18 bluegrass bands of all time and helped to influence generations of bluegrass musicians;
19 and

20 Whereas, Earl Scruggs left The Foggy Mountain Boys in 1969 and formed
21 the Earl Scruggs Revue featuring his son Randy Scruggs on guitar, bass, and vocals and
22 his son Gary Scruggs on bass harmonica and vocals, along with Jody Maphis on drums
23 and vocals; and

24 Whereas, Earl Scruggs was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in
25 1985 and the International Bluegrass Music Awards (IBMA) Hall of Honor in 1991 and
26 was awarded the National Heritage Fellowship Award and the President's National
27 Medal of Arts; and

28 Whereas, Earl Scruggs has been nominated for numerous Grammy Awards
29 and has won four, including two for renditions of "Foggy Mountain Breakdown"; and

30 Whereas, Earl Scruggs was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of
31 Fame on February 13, 2003; and

32 Whereas, Earl Scruggs is highly respected among musicians, which is evident
33 from the many performers who have made guest appearances on his albums, including
34 Bob Dylan, Elton John, Sting, Melissa Etheridge, Johnny Cash, and Don Henley; and

35 Whereas, Earl Scruggs has had a profound impact on bluegrass and country
36 music and thus has earned the admiration of the people of this State and the world;
37 Now, therefore,

38 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

39 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of native son Don
40 Gibson and expresses its appreciation for his invaluable contributions to the music
41 industry.

42 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly wishes to pay tribute to native son Earl
43 Scruggs for his accomplishments as a musician and for his role in helping to popularize
44 bluegrass music.

- 1 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
2 resolution to Earl Scruggs and the family of Don Gibson.
3 **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.