

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1653

Sponsors: Representative Randleman.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

June 8, 2009

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF WILLIAM OLIVER
2 SWOFFORD, AMERICAN POP SINGER AND NATIVE SON OF NORTH CAROLINA.

3 Whereas, William Oliver Swofford was born on February 22, 1945, in North
4 Wilkesboro, North Carolina, to Jack and Helen Swofford; and

5 Whereas, while a student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill,
6 William Oliver Swofford began singing blue grass music with a number of other students; and

7 Whereas, after college, William Oliver Swofford decided to become a professional
8 singer and joined the musical groups The Virginians and The Good Earth; and

9 Whereas, William Oliver Swofford soon settled upon a solo career and recorded
10 under the name "Oliver"; and

11 Whereas, Oliver had his first hit song with "Good Morning Starshine" from the
12 Broadway musical "Hair," which climbed to Number 3 on the pop chart in July of 1969; and

13 Whereas, Oliver found additional success with Rod McKuen's ballad "Jean" from
14 the Oscar-winning film "The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie," which held the Number 2 spot on the
15 pop chart for two weeks and peaked at Number 1 on the adult contemporary chart in October,
16 1969; and

17 Whereas, both "Good Morning Starshine" and "Jean" were included on Oliver's
18 "Good Morning Starshine" album, which reached Number 19 on the pop chart in the fall of
19 1969; and

20 Whereas, Oliver performed his hits on a number of TV variety shows and specials
21 in the late 1960s, including the Ed Sullivan Show; and

22 Whereas, some of Oliver's other recordings included "Sunday Mornin'," which
23 peaked at Number 35 in December 1969; "Light the Way," which was composed by Eric
24 Carmen in 1970; and "Early Morning Rain," which gained success on the easy listening charts
25 in 1971; and

26 Whereas, Oliver performed throughout the United States during the 1970s and, after
27 retiring from the music industry in the 1980s, worked in the construction and pharmaceutical
28 fields; and

29 Whereas, Oliver died on February 12, 2000, at the age of 54, in Shreveport,
30 Louisiana; and

31 Whereas, Oliver is survived by his wife, Becky; two children, Beth and Rob; and
32 three brothers, John Swofford, Carl Swofford, and Jim Swofford; and

33 Whereas, Oliver's music continues to be heard around the world and is discovered
34 by new listeners each day; and

35 Whereas, on the 40th anniversary of the release of "Good Morning Starshine," the
36 Town of North Wilkesboro will hold a festival to celebrate William Oliver Swofford's legacy as
37 a State, national, and international recording artist; Now, therefore,



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

2 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly honors the memory of native son William
3 Oliver Swofford and expresses its appreciation for his life and his contributions to music.

4 **SECTION 2.** The General Assembly extends its sympathy to the family of William
5 Oliver Swofford for the loss of a beloved family member.

6 **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this
7 resolution to the family of William Oliver Swofford.

8 **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.