

1 HR343  
2 177321-2  
3 By Representatives Rich, Harper, South, Patterson, Moore (B),  
4 Ledbetter, Fridy, Pettus, Rowe, Ball, Shedd, Wilcox,  
5 Treadaway, Coleman, Tuggle, Milligan, Johnson (R), Ainsworth,  
6 Mooney, Sessions and McCutcheon  
7 RFD:  
8 First Read: 26-APR-16

1 177321-2:n:04/21/2016:DSM/tj LRS2016-1628R1

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8 MOURNING THE DEATH OF MERLE RONALD HAGGARD.

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10 WHEREAS, it is with deep sorrow and regret that we  
11 note the lamentable death of Merle Ronald Haggard on April 6,  
12 2016, at the age of 79; born in California, Haggard overcame a  
13 troubled childhood and rebellious youth to become an  
14 internationally known American country music singer,  
15 songwriter, guitarist, fiddler, and instrumentalist; and

16 WHEREAS, Haggard gained success and popularity with  
17 songs about the working class with occasional mentions of  
18 politically unpopular issues; his songs romanticized the  
19 hardships and tragedies of life and attracted attention from  
20 outside the country field and some of his songs were recorded  
21 by others, including, The Everly Brothers, Joan Baez, Dean  
22 Martin, and the Grateful Dead; and

23 WHEREAS, with 38 Number One hits spanning the  
24 decades, Haggard released 71 Top 10 Country hits including 34  
25 in a row from 1967 to 1977; Haggard received numerous  
26 recognitions and awards, including multiple Grammies, and 6  
27 Academy of County Music Top Male Vocalist Awards as well as

1 the Single, Song, and Album of The Year in 1969 for one  
2 special song, "Okie from Muskogee"; he was inducted into the  
3 Country Music Hall of Fame in 1994, the Oklahoma Music Hall of  
4 Fame in 1997, the Nashville Songwriter Hall of Fame in 1977,  
5 and the Kennedy Center Honors in 2010; and

6 WHEREAS, Haggard lived the legend, providing proof  
7 that a "Branded Man," "Pancho and Lefty," or even "Bar Room  
8 Buddies" singing "I Think I'll Just Stay Here and Drink" can  
9 turn life around because "Mama Tried" and suppressed "The  
10 Fightin' Side of Me" to "Sing Me Back Home"; and

11 WHEREAS, touring and recording extensively during  
12 his career, Haggard was a valued member of the music community  
13 and loved by many; we join with relatives, fellow musicians,  
14 friends, and fans, who will enjoy his music for many years to  
15 come, to celebrate his life and to mourn his death; now  
16 therefore,

17 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
18 THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the death of Merle Ronald  
19 Haggard is recorded with deep sadness, and even as we mourn  
20 his death, we also celebrate his life; this resolution is  
21 offered in highest tribute, along with heartfelt sympathy to  
22 his family and friends, whose grief is shared by many.