



State of Tennessee

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 302

By Representatives Coley, Camper, Cooper, John DeBerry, Lois DeBerry, Hardaway, Kernell, Lollar, McManus, Larry Miller, Parkinson, Richardson, Todd, Towns, Johnnie Turner, White

and

Senators Norris, Ford, Marrero

A RESOLUTION recognizing Dr. Herman Washington Green.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of the General Assembly should honor those exemplary citizens who contribute significantly to Tennessee's diverse and dynamic culture; and

WHEREAS, legendary jazz saxophonist Dr. Herman Washington Green is one such individual who, throughout his long and influential career in music, has helped shape the course of American music; and

WHEREAS, a native of Memphis, Dr. Herman Green first honed his musical chops on Beale Street in the 1940s, and he played his first professional shows as a member of Phineas Newborn's big band in 1945, at the young age of fifteen; and

WHEREAS, Herman Green helped B.B. King put together his first band, and played with Rufus Thomas on the Sun Records cut of "Bearcat," recorded in 1953. Shortly after, he joined the United States military, serving his overseas duty with honor and valor; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, Dr. Herman Green was returning to Memphis after the conclusion of his military duty and, during a layover in San Francisco, he heard a three-piece jazz combo playing a style of jazz new to him; and

WHEREAS, over the next couple of years, Herman Green was a member of the house band of the infamous Blackhawk night club, the origin of the musical stylings which would become known as West Coast Jazz; and

WHEREAS, while playing in San Francisco with such artists as Cannonball Adderly, Miles Davis, Dave Brubeck, and the Modern Jazz Quartet at such memorable clubs as Box City, Say When, and the Jazz Workshop, Mr. Green garnered the attention of Lionel Hampton, the "King of Jazz Music"; and

WHEREAS, when Lionel Hampton offered Herman Green a spot in his big band, Mr. Green accepted and thus embarked upon a new era in his career, one which would take him to New York and introduce him to Clark Terry, John Coltrane, Art Davis, and the entire sound of New York jazz; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Herman Green returned to Memphis in the early 1960s and, over the next few decades, played and recorded with some of the greatest musical legends of Memphis, including Isaac Hayes; and

WHEREAS, it was in Memphis that Dr. Herman Green dedicated his time and energies to cultivating the next generation of jazz greats, teaching and mentoring such artists as James Williams, Donald Brown, and Mulgrew Miller while standing as the Head of Jazz Studies at LeMoyne-Owen College; and

WHEREAS, his love for the world of jazz never faded, as evidenced by his forming of the Herman Green and the Green Machine jazz quintet and the jazz/rock/jam/fusion group Freeworld, which is still creating incredible music and has released five albums; and

HJR 302

WHEREAS, throughout the decades, Dr. Herman Green has pursued with unwavering dedication the heart and soul of jazz music, bringing joy to his thousands of fans while at the same time encouraging the growth and evolution of the genre; and

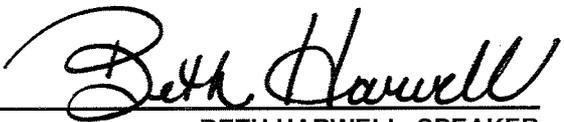
WHEREAS, Herman Green is a musical treasure, a trailblazer into the world of jazz, and it is wholly fitting that he be recognized by this body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize Dr. Herman Washington Green as a musical legend, applauding his many contributions to the world of jazz.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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ADOPTED: MAY 2, 2011



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 13th day of May 2011


BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR