HLS 23RS-1321 ORIGINAL

2023 Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 74

BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMPSON

COMMENDATIONS: Commends Gene Stewart for his accomplishments

1 A RESOLUTION 2 To commend Gene Stewart for his accomplishments. 3 WHEREAS, Gene Stewart was born in Carthage, Mississippi, on July 21, 1938, and 4 has been a resident of Rayville, Louisiana, for over eighty years; his family moved to 5 Louisiana in the 1940s and worked as tenant farmers in Richland Parish; as a schoolboy, he 6 farmed cotton and corn while learning guitar and singing and writing with his mother and cousins; and 7 8 WHEREAS, Gene attended Holly Ridge High School and started a five-piece 9 country/rockabilly band named "Gene Stewart and the Rockin' Rebels"; the band became a 10 mainstay at the Twin City Jamboree in West Monroe, Louisiana, and the Grand Old Auction 11 Barn in Delhi, Louisiana; he also met James Burton, Elvis Presley's lead guitarist and band 12 leader, while in Delhi; and 13 WHEREAS, after graduating, Gene enlisted in the United States Army; while he 14 cherishes the country life and possesses a genuine respect for farmers, he wanted an 15 alternative to a life of farming; and 16 WHEREAS, while stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, Gene continued to nurture his love 17 of music by performing with local bands; on one occasion in 1957, he had the opportunity 18 to perform a rock & roll gig with Clyde "Barefoot" Chesser; when the U.S. Army sent him 19 to Ulm, Germany, he played with German bands at the noncommissioned officers club; and 20 WHEREAS, upon completion of his military service, Gene returned home and re-21 formed the Rockin' Rebels, and the band began playing at the Twin City Jamboree at the 1

2	Lee Lewis; and
3	WHEREAS, Gene began playing regularly at Delta Village, a tourist attraction west
4	of Tallulah, Louisiana, in the early 1970s; he also made regular appearances on various
5	country shows and at Elks and Moose Lodges in different cities; and
6	WHEREAS, Gene made his first recording, "Rub It In", at Camaro Records in
7	Memphis, Tennessee; the song became a regional hit before Billy Crash Craddock's version
8	became nationally famous; he also recorded a variety of other songs including "It's Not
9	Much But It's Home", which is a song about his hometown of Rayville and was recorded by
10	Enchanted Records; in 1975, he wrote and recorded "Face of an Angel", which became the
11	most requested song at KRIH radio station in that year; and
12	WHEREAS, Gene began working at the United States Post Office in Rayville in
13	1961; he went on to serve there for forty-two years as a clerk/carrier, superintendent of
14	postal operations, and for his final sixteen years of service, as postmaster; he was a member
15	of the National League of Postmasters and National Association of Postmasters of the United
16	States; he was especially active in the National League of Postmasters, serving as state
17	membership chair and as a national membership committee member; and
18	WHEREAS, Gene also started a part-time career in real estate and after retiring from
19	the post office became a full-time broker and investor with his wife, D'Juana; and
20	WHEREAS, Mr. Stewart has served his community in a variety of ways; he was a
21	member of the Kiwanis Club, serving as president from 1989 to 1990, and the Junior
22	Chamber of Commerce; he was also active in the Loyal Order of the Moose and Woodmen
23	of the World; he is currently a member of the Richland Parish Chamber of Commerce,
24	serves as a notary public, mentors young musicians, and is a faithful member of First Baptist
25	Church in Rayville; and
26	WHEREAS, Gene Stewart is most deserving of recognition for his many
27	accomplishments and his dedication to Rayville and Richland Parish.
28	THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the
29	Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend Gene Stewart for his accomplishments and

Fairgrounds Exhibit Building in West Monroe; in 1959, he and the band opened for Jerry

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does hereby extend sincerest wishes that he continue to prosper in all of his endeavors for

2 many years to come.

DIGEST

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HR 74 Original

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