

A RESOLUTION commending the outstanding achievements of Pike County native Marlow Tackett and urging his inclusion upon the Kentucky Highway – U.S. 23 "Country Music Highway" signage.

WHEREAS, Marlow Tackett was born in the community of Dorton, to Toy and Frona Vanover Tackett and

WHEREAS, as a child, Marlow Tackett would beat on a broom, a can, or anything in an effort to make music. Often it was strumming on a barbed wire fence and singing Elvis Presley songs while his dog would herd the cow.

WHEREAS, at the age of nine, Marlow Tackett entered a talent show at Dorton Elementary School. His older sister Audrey painted some sideburns on him using Maybelline makeup and painted his shoes blue using white shoe polish and blue cake coloring. Marlow sang "Blue Suede Shoes" and won \$2.50 and a box of Milky Way candy bars; and

WHEREAS, one day his father surprised him with a Montgomery Ward Harmony guitar and taught him a few chords. From that day forward, Marlow Tackett and his guitar were inseparable; and

WHEREAS, Marlow Tackett was warned by his principal at school that if he didn't quit playing his guitar on the school bus, he would not be allowed to ride anymore. As a result, Marlow chose to walk or hitch to school from that day forward; and

WHEREAS, in 1975, Marlow Tackett opened "Marlow's Country Palace" where his music career flourished for 30 years doing four shows each week, as well as providing a venue for other artists to perform; and

WHEREAS, Marlow Tackett had nearly a 40 year career in country music and was once an RCA records recording artist and recorded such songs as "Searching For My Mind" and "Would You Know Love." Marlow also made three appearances at the legendary Grand Ole Opry; and

WHEREAS, Marlow Tackett spread holiday cheer throughout Eastern Kentucky

with his Christmas party for needy families, which for 35 years, provided toys, clothes, furniture, and other necessities to thousands of area children. He was known as the "Mountain Santa Claus"; and

WHEREAS, Marlow Tackett would also do a Christmas tour of nursing homes, rest homes, and health-care centers in Pike, Floyd, Letcher, Martin, Johnson, and Magoffin Counties; and

WHEREAS, on May 10, 2014, at the age of 70, Marlow Tackett departed these earthly bounds; and

WHEREAS, Marlow Tackett's talent and career have earned him the respect and recognition of his peers in the music industry. His talent and accomplishments should be recognized by the Transportation/Tourism Interagency Committee by placing his name on the "Country Music Highway" signage in Pike County;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The Senate commends the accomplishments of Marlow Tackett and strongly urges the Transportation/Tourism Interagency Committee to add Marlow Tackett to the "Country Music Highway" signage in Pike County for his outstanding achievements in music.

➔Section 2. When the Senate adjourns this day, it does so in recognition, pride, and memory of Kentuckian Marlow Tackett.