

**Hall of the House of Representatives**  
87th General Assembly - Regular Session, 2009  
**Amendment Form**

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**Subtitle of House Memorial Resolution No. 1004**

"IN RESPECTFUL MEMORY OF MR. NICK MASULLO AND IN RECOGNITION OF HIS  
MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND HIS COMMUNITY."

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**Amendment No. 1 to House Memorial Resolution No. 1004.**

Amend House Memorial Resolution No. 1004 as originally introduced:

Delete the title in its entirety and substitute the following:  
"CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS, AND  
MOURNING THE PASSING OF, NICK MASULLO."

AND

Delete the subtitle in its entirety and substitute the following:  
"CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS,  
AND MOURNING THE PASSING OF, NICK MASULLO."

AND

Delete lines 20 through 22 and substitute the following:  
"WHEREAS, Nick Masullo of Fayetteville, Arkansas, singer-songwriter and former general manager of the Ozark Cooperative Warehouse, died peacefully in his home with his wife and friends on Saturday evening, September 6, 2008; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Masullo came to Arkansas from New York and contributed to the state for thirty-six (36) years, distinguishing himself through community service and his original music; and

WHEREAS, under his management the Ozark Cooperative Warehouse won the Arkansas Business of the Year for 1989; and when he retired due to his battle with multiple sclerosis, he was awarded recognition for twenty-eight (28) years of service to the cooperative principles; and

WHEREAS, his honors include first-place winner in the Woody Guthrie Folk Festival Songwriting Competition; an award for Best Contemporary Folk Song at the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, Kansas; selection as Songwriter of the Year at the Ozark Music Awards; and recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award for Songwriting at the North Arkansas Music Awards; and



WHEREAS, his notable writings include the books "Hold You When You Cry" and "Being Healed"; and

WHEREAS, he released three original compact discs of his music, including "Some Kind of Sign", "Everything You've Got", and "The Lost Songs"; and

WHEREAS, a major theme in his music was encouraging people to fulfill their full potential and overcome challenges, such as his own five-year struggle battling multiple sclerosis; and

WHEREAS, he became an icon in his community and in the world beyond; once an able-bodied man who played ice hockey and taught ice skating to Special Olympics kids, Mr. Masullo, as a newly disabled man, became a staunch advocate for individuals with disabilities; and already sympathetic to the needs of individuals with disabilities, he now experienced the marginality that is so much a part of life for most individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, rather than being beaten down by his disease, he rose up and said, "I will not be invisible. There is a creative spirit living within this crippled body."; and

WHEREAS, he wrote songs and essays that inspired not only the disabled community but the able-bodied community as well, continuing to perform his work even when he could no longer play the guitar and it was painful to sing; and

WHEREAS, his songs such as "Take Their Wheelchairs Away" and "Everything You've Got" reached beyond his immediate circle to the entire state and to the country, spurring others, disabled and not, to live the words he wrote: "It's about all that you can do/with everything you've got/and not the things that hold you back/or anything you're not"; and

WHEREAS, Arkansans, known for prizing place and community, developed a community of care for Nick, a testimonial to the man and to the community in which he lived; he inspired them; they encouraged him; around and around it went until what developed was Arkansans operating at their finest; and everyone mattered; and

WHEREAS, Nick wrote in his song "It'll Matter": "It doesn't matter how you move - a limo or a chair with wheels/it's up to you that you arrive/it's up to you the way you feel/it'll matter who you touch and it matters what you give/it'll matter if you try and makes a difference that you live"; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his wife, Ginny, Nick Masullo is survived by two (2) sons, Clayton Yarri Davis and Chris; his grandson, Jacob, the son of Yarri and his wife, Aurora; and his five (5) sisters, Bo, Karen, Robin, Penny and Brenda,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives honors the memory of Nick Masullo; celebrates his life and significant contributions to the field of original folk music and to the people of Arkansas; and remembers him with the deepest admiration and respect for his personal warmth, courage, decency, humor, and consideration for others.

The Amendment was read \_\_\_\_\_  
By: Representative L. Smith  
KLL/YTC - 03-11-2009 15:58  
KLL252

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk