

1 State of Arkansas  
2 85th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2005

HR 1023

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5 By: Representative Goss  
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## 8 HOUSE RESOLUTION

9 RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ARKANSAS NATIVE  
10 AUTRY DEWALT, SR., AS A MUSICIAN, SINGER, AND  
11 LEADER OF THE WORLD RENOWNED MUSICAL GROUP "JR.  
12 WALKER AND THE ALL-STARS".  
13

### 14 Subtitle

15 RECOGNIZING THE MUSICAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF  
16 ARKANSAS NATIVE AUTRY DEWALT, SR. ALSO  
17 KNOWN AS JR. WALKER  
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20 WHEREAS, the late Autry DeWalt, Sr., was born in Blytheville, Arkansas,  
21 on June 14, 1931; and  
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23 WHEREAS, Autry DeWalt, Sr., is known to friends and countless fans  
24 around the world as Jr. Walker of "Jr. Walker and the All-Stars; and  
25

26 WHEREAS, inspired by the music of Arkansas native Louis Jordan, DeWalt  
27 fell in love with the saxophone, turned professional, and played in jazz and  
28 Rhythm and Blues clubs with bands such as the "Jumping Jacks" and the "Stix  
29 Nicks"; and  
30

31 WHEREAS, after moving to Battle Creek, Michigan, in the late 1950's,  
32 DeWalt formed "Jr. Walker and the All-Stars" consisting of DeWalt as Jr.  
33 Walker sax vocals; Vic Thomas on keyboards, Willie Woods on guitar, James  
34 Graves on drums; and  
35

36 WHEREAS, while playing the local club circuit, the group was spotted by



1 Johnny Bristol who recommended them to Harvey Fuqua, who signed them to his  
 2 own Harvey label which was taken over by Motown Records in 1963, and "Jr  
 3 Walker and the All-Stars" began recording for the subsidiary label Soul in  
 4 1964; and

5  
 6 WHEREAS, in early 1965, "Jr. Walker and the All-Stars" recorded  
 7 "Shotgun (#4 pop, #1 R&B, 1965) and had a string of party hits that included  
 8 "Do the Boomerang," (#10 R&B) and "Shake and Finger Pop" (#7 R&B) in 1965;  
 9 "How Sweet It Is (To be Loved By You)" (#18 pop, #3 R&B) and "I'm a Road  
 10 Runner" (#20 pop, # 4 R&B) in 1966, "Pucker Up Buttercup" (#3 pop, # 11 R&B)  
 11 and "Come See About Me: (#24 pop, #8 R&B) in 1967, and "Hip City, Part Two"  
 12 (#7 R&B 1965) in 1968.

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 14 WHEREAS, with Walker singing more, "Jr. Walker and the All-Stars" had  
 15 success with "What Does It Take (to Win Your Love)"(#4 pop, #1 R&B) and  
 16 "These Eyes" (#16 pop, # 3 R&B) in 1969, "Gotta Hold On to This Feeling" (#  
 17 21 pop, # 2 R&B) and "Do You See My Love (For You Growing)" (# 32 pop, # 2  
 18 R&B) in 1970, and "Walk in the Night" (# 46 pop, # 10 R&B) in 1972; and

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 20 WHEREAS, Jr. Walker continued recording in the '70's, including a stint  
 21 with ex-Motown producer writer Norman Whitfield's label in 1979, but was  
 22 never as commercially successful as he had been with Motown, providing the  
 23 saxophone solo for Foreigner's 1982 hit "Urgent", and re-signing with Motown  
 24 in 1983, "Jr. Walker and the All-Stars" toured into the '90's; and

25  
 26 WHEREAS, Autry DeWalt, Sr., also known as Junior Walker, died in Battle  
 27 Creek, Michigan of cancer on November 23, 1995,

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 29 NOW THEREFORE,  
 30 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-FIFTH GENERAL  
 31 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

32  
 33 THAT the House of Representatives of the Eighty-fifth General Assembly  
 34 of the State of Arkansas recognizes the achievements of Arkansas native Autry  
 35 Dewalt, Sr., as a musician, singer, and leader of the world renowned musical  
 36 group "Jr. Walker and the All-Stars".