

1 State of Arkansas  
2 87th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2009

*As Engrossed: H3/16/09*

HMR 1004

4  
5 By: Representative L. Smith  
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## 8 HOUSE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

9 *CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS, AND*  
10 *MOURNING THE PASSING OF, NICK MASULLO.*

### 11 Subtitle

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13 *CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS,*  
14 *AND MOURNING THE PASSING OF, NICK*  
15 *MASULLO.*  
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19 *WHEREAS, Nick Masullo of Fayetteville, Arkansas, singer-songwriter and*  
20 *former general manager of the Ozark Cooperative Warehouse, died peacefully in*  
21 *his home with his wife and friends on Saturday evening, September 6, 2008;*  
22 *and*  
23

24 *WHEREAS, Mr. Masullo came to Arkansas from New York and contributed to*  
25 *the state for thirty-six (36) years, distinguishing himself through community*  
26 *service and his original music; and*  
27

28 *WHEREAS, under his management the Ozark Cooperative Warehouse won the*  
29 *Arkansas Business of the Year for 1989; and when he retired due to his battle*  
30 *with multiple sclerosis, he was awarded recognition for twenty-eight (28)*  
31 *years of service to the cooperative principles; and*  
32

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



1 *Achievement Award for Songwriting at the North Arkansas Music Awards; and*  
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3 *WHEREAS, his notable writings include the books "Hold You When You Cry"*  
4 *and "Being Healed"; and*  
5

6 *WHEREAS, he released three original compact discs of his music,*  
7 *including "Some Kind of Sign", "Everything You've Got", and "The Lost Songs";*  
8 *and*  
9

10 *WHEREAS, a major theme in his music was encouraging people to fulfill*  
11 *their full potential and overcome challenges, such as his own five-year*  
12 *struggle battling multiple sclerosis; and*  
13

14 *WHEREAS, he became an icon in his community and in the world beyond;*  
15 *once an able-bodied man who played ice hockey and taught ice skating to*  
16 *Special Olympics kids, Mr. Masullo, as a newly disabled man, became a staunch*  
17 *advocate for individuals with disabilities; and already sympathetic to the*  
18 *needs of individuals with disabilities, he now experienced the marginality*  
19 *that is so much a part of life for most individuals with disabilities; and*  
20

21 *WHEREAS, rather than being beaten down by his disease, he rose up and*  
22 *said, "I will not be invisible. There is a creative spirit living within this*  
23 *crippled body."; and*  
24

25 *WHEREAS, he wrote songs and essays that inspired not only the disabled*  
26 *community but the able-bodied community as well, continuing to perform his*  
27 *work even when he could no longer play the guitar and it was painful to sing;*  
28 *and*  
29

30 *WHEREAS, his songs such as "Take Their Wheelchairs Away" and*  
31 *"Everything You've Got" reached beyond his immediate circle to the entire*  
32 *state and to the country, spurring others, disabled and not, to live the*  
33 *words he wrote: "It's about all that you can do/with everything you've*  
34 *got/and not the things that hold you back/or anything you're not"; and*  
35

36 *WHEREAS, Arkansans, known for prizing place and community, developed a*

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

5

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

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

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

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

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/s/ L. Smith

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