

1/24/01 Do Pass
1/31/00 Adopted

RULES & ADMINISTRATION

FILED JAN 23 '01

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 2

BY MCKEAN

A Senate Resolution honoring Grand Ole Opry singer
Wilma Lee Cooper.

WHEREAS, Wilma Lee Cooper has been a member of the
Grand Ole Opry since 1957 and is widely acclaimed as
the First Lady of Bluegrass; and

WHEREAS, Wilma Lee Cooper and her late husband,
Stoney Cooper, spent part of their early career in
Iowa and Nebraska, and have returned to perform in the
upper Midwest on many occasions, and continue to have
a wide following in the region; and

WHEREAS, Wilma Lee Cooper's career has spanned the
decades from her childhood in West Virginia in the
1930s, when she sang with her parents and sisters as
the Leary Family, through the next nearly 40 years of
singing with her husband, Stoney Cooper, and the
Clinch Mountain Clan, until Stoney's death in 1977,
and through more recent appearances on the Grand Ole
Opry stage with the reorganized Clinch Mountain Clan;
and

WHEREAS, the music of Wilma Lee Cooper has always
been traditional country music, with some of her best-
known songs being "Walking My Lord Up Calvary's Hill,"
"The Legend of the Dogwood Tree," "Come Walk With Me,"
"Big Midnight Special," "There's A Big Wheel," and "A
Daisy A Day"; and

WHEREAS, Wilma Lee Cooper has been recognized as
having made remarkable contributions to bluegrass
music, and has received awards and honors from many

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1 sources, including the International Bluegrass Music
2 Association, the Smithsonian Institution, the Country
3 Music Foundation, Harvard University, and the Country
4 Gospel Music Hall of Fame, and has been chosen to
5 record for the Library of Congress; and

6 WHEREAS, Wilma Lee Cooper will be inducted into the
7 Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music of
8 America's Preservation Hall of Greats on February 4,
9 2001, and will celebrate her 80th birthday on February
10 7, 2001; NOW THEREFORE,

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That the Senate
12 recognizes Wilma Lee Cooper for her achievements as a
13 vocal artist, recognizing not only her talent and
14 career accomplishments but also her contribution to
15 the rich country music heritage celebrated by Iowans
16 and music enthusiasts around the world.

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