

SHORT TITLE: Praising the memory of the late Bob Wills; welcoming Bob Wills' Texas Playboys upon their return to Oklahoma City.

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 46th Legislature (1998)

SENATE

RESOLUTION NO. 62

By: Weedn, Hendrick, Douglass
and Leftwich

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution praising the memory of the late Bob Wills; welcoming Bob Wills' Texas Playboys upon their return to Oklahoma City; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, James Robert Wills was born March 6, 1905, on a farm near Kosse in Limestone County, Texas, the first of ten children born to John Tompkins Wills and Emmaline Foley. Bob was a third generation of Willses born in Texas. In 1913 the Wills family moved in two covered wagons to Hall County near Turkey, Texas; and

WHEREAS, like his grandfather, father and several uncles, Bob Wills was an outstanding fiddler. Bob played at his first dance at ten years of age. Bob was influenced by both the blues and jazz. He played in a number of bands including the Wills Fiddle Band, the Aladdin Laddies, the Light Crust Doughboys and finally the Texas Playboys. The Texas Playboys under the leadership of Bob Wills created what was known as hillbilly jazz, country dance music which was eventually called Western Swing, a patchwork of country string bands, jazz combos, German polka bands, blues singers and ragtime. Wills pioneered the use of drums with country and western music; and

WHEREAS, Bob Wills and his Texas Playboys played at Tulsa's KVOO radio station for nine years from 1934 to 1942. These were considered the greatest years of his career. His most famous recording was "San Antonio Rose" recorded on November 28, 1938, in Dallas, Texas. The record sold over a million copies, extraordinary

at the time. Other classic songs include "Faded Love", "Take Me Back to Tulsa", and "Panhandle Rag". In 1943 Bob Wills moved to California with a 22 piece orchestra where he appeared in 13 feature films including "Take Me Back to Oklahoma". The last recording session for Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys was in 1973 when they recorded the Grammy award-winning "For the Last Time: Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys". Bob Wills was voted into the Country Music Hall of Fame on October 18, 1968; and

WHEREAS, Bob Wills died on May 13, 1975, and was buried in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In recent years the Oklahoma State Senate has kept the spirit of Western Swing alive by hosting Bob Wills day in the state capitol, a day full of music and celebration. Bob Wills' Texas Playboys will return to Oklahoma City on Friday, April 3, 1998, at the Oklahoma Opry, 404 West Commerce Avenue and on Saturday, April 4, 1998, at Ernie's Country Palace, four miles west of Yukon, Oklahoma.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 46TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate praises the memory of the late Bob Wills.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate welcomes Bob Wills' Texas Playboys upon their return to Oklahoma City.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Bob Wills' Texas Playboys.

46-2-2975

THC

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