

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 98

By: Rabon, Adelson, Aldridge,
Anderson, Ballenger,
Barrington, Bass, Bingman,
Branan, Brogdon, Brown,
Burrage, Coates, Coffee,
Corn, Crain, Crutchfield,
Easley, Eason McIntyre,
Ford, Garrison, Gumm,
Ivester, Johnson
(Constance), Johnson
(Mike), Jolley, Justice,
Lamb, Laster, Laughlin,
Leftwich, Lerblance,
Mazzei, Morgan, Myers,
Nichols, Paddack, Reynolds,
Rice, Riley, Schulz,
Sparks, Sweeden, Sykes,
Wilcoxson, Williamson,
Wilson and Wyrick

A Resolution recognizing native Oklahoman Mike Rabon and praising his many contributions to popular music; endorsing the induction of Mike Rabon and the Five Americans into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Mike Rabon grew up in Hugo, Oklahoma, in Choctaw County. At a young age he learned to play the guitar from his grandmother. By the age of 14 he was a member of a band, the Rhythm Rebels, who hosted their own local radio show in Hugo, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, in 1962 Mike Rabon founded a band, the Mutineers, at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, Oklahoma. The band played for fraternity parties and at local clubs; and

WHEREAS, in 1964 the Mutineers moved to Dallas, Texas, and changed their name to Five Americans. One story is they went to Dallas to earn enough money to pay for the next semester's tuition. Another story says they were on their way to Houston, Texas, stopped for a party in Dallas and never departed. Their musical success dictated otherwise; and

WHEREAS, the Five Americans performed with and/or toured with: the Beach Boys, Bobby Vee, Buffalo Springfield, The Byrds, Glenn Campbell, the Dave Clark Five, the Everly Brothers, Herman's Hermits, Paul Revere and the Raiders, the Rolling Stones, Sam the Sham and the Pharaohs, Sonny and Cher, and the Young Rascals. During a five-year period the Five Americans toured the entire nation; and

WHEREAS, the Five Americans appeared on the following television programs: Dick Clark's American Bandstand, Shindig!, The Shivaree, The Steve Allen Show (after introducing them, Steve Allen asked how many members were in the band), Where the Action Is, and The Woody Woodbury Show. The Five Americans also played at the Whisky a Go Go nightclub with The Doors; and

WHEREAS, Mike Rabon wrote or cowrote most of the songs, played lead guitar, and usually sang lead vocals. The Five Americans' most notable songs include: "Don't Blame Me", "Evol-Not Love", "I See the Light", "The Losing Game", "Reality", "7:30-Guided Tour", "Slippin' & Slidin'", "The Sound of Love", "Stop Light", "Teenage Shutdown #1", "The Train", "Virginia Girl", "Zip Code", and "Western Union". "Western Union" was their biggest hit. It reached Number Three on the charts, sold a million records and has been played more than a million-and-a-half times over the radio and Internet. It was featured in the 2001 Tom Cruise movie Vanilla Sky; and

WHEREAS, the Five Americans had at least five records that made the charts in or close to the top 40. Millions of single records and albums were sold by this band of song writers. The Five Americans broke up after five years in 1969. Mike Rabon continued to tour with his own group, Michael Rabon and Choctaw, and released two albums. Mike signed with UNI records along with their other star, Elton John; and

WHEREAS, Mike Rabon returned to college and acquired a master's degree in public school administration. He currently serves Oklahoma education as a school principal. He also teaches music in his home town of Hugo, Oklahoma. Mike has written a book about his musical experiences and plans to publish it after he retires as an educator; and

WHEREAS, the Five Americans held a twenty-year-reunion concert at the Hard Rock Cafe in Dallas, Texas, in 1988. In 2000 they were honored by the alumni association of Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SOSU). They performed at a concert at SOSU on March 15, 2003. Interest in their music continues and a movement is underway to induct Mike Rabon and the Five Americans into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 51ST OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes native Oklahoman Mike Rabon and praises his many contributions to popular music.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate endorses inducting Mike Rabon and the Five Americans into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Mike Rabon and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Adopted by the Senate the 23rd day of May, 2008.

Presiding Officer of the Senate