

ENROLLED SENATE
RESOLUTION NO. 6

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

A Resolution recognizing the musical talent of Wanda Jackson; congratulating her upon her forthcoming induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, Wanda Jackson was born on October 20, 1937, in Maud, Oklahoma, the daughter of Tom and Nellie Jackson. Her father, a musician, was a country singer and piano player. The family moved to Bakersfield, California, in 1941 in search of employment. While there, her father bought Wanda her first guitar from a pawn shop and gave her lessons and also encouraged her to play the piano. He took her to see and hear such acts as Tex Williams, Spade Cooley, and Bob

Wills. Meanwhile Wanda learned to sing in a church gospel choir; and

WHEREAS, Wanda Jackson and her family moved back to Oklahoma. In 1952 she won a local talent contest and was rewarded with her own fifteen-minute radio program on KLPR. The program was eventually lengthened to thirty minutes. At the age of 15 years, Wanda Jackson was discovered by Hank Thompson who in 1954 heard her perform on Oklahoma City radio station KLPR. After her recruitment, Wanda recorded with Thompson's band, the Brazos Valley Boys. Her first big hit was "You Can't Have My Love", a duet she sang with Billy Gray, Hank Thompson's band leader; and

WHEREAS, Wanda Jackson insisted on graduating from Capitol Hill High School in Oklahoma City before committing to a career in entertainment. Then it became a family affair. She was accompanied everywhere by her father, and her mother designed and made her stage costumes. When she married IBM programmer Wendell Goodman in 1961, he quit his job in the computer industry and managed her career. He was responsible for packaging her syndicated television show, "Music Village"; and

WHEREAS, Wanda Jackson met and dated Elvis Presley who, along with her father, convinced her to enter the world of rock and roll. During the 1950s she toured with the "Ozark Jubilee". The touring entertainment packages often included Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Buddy Holly, Carl Perkins, Roy Orbison, and Johnny Cash. By the end of the 1950s she was the country's first major female country and rockabilly singer; and

WHEREAS, Wanda Jackson is widely recognized as the first woman to record a rock and roll song in 1958, "Let's Have a Party". The song was nominated with eight others last year to compete as the Oklahoma state rock song. Wanda Jackson continued to tour during the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. She was very successful in Las Vegas, Nevada, and was nominated for two Grammys; and

WHEREAS, Wanda Jackson toured Europe and played at rockabilly and country music festivals in the 1980s. A documentary was produced about Wanda Jackson's career in 2008, "The Sweet Lady with the Nasty Voice". She was also featured in a PBS special, "The Women of Rockabilly"; and

WHEREAS, Wanda Jackson eventually turned to gospel music. She hosted "Country Gospel" on the Trinity Broadcasting Network. In 1990 she was inducted into the International Gospel Hall of Fame. In 1994 she was inducted into the Oklahoma Country Music Hall of Fame, and in 2001 she was inducted into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Wanda Jackson's biggest fans include Bruce Springsteen, Elvis Costello, Bob Dylan, Pam Tillis, Jann Browne, Rosie Flores, and heavy metal Motorhead member Lemmy Kilmister. This year Wanda Jackson will be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio, the first female Oklahoman to be so honored.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate recognizes the ability, talent, and lifetime career of music pioneer Wanda Jackson.

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate congratulates Wanda Jackson upon her forthcoming induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Queen of Rockabilly, the First Lady of Rock, and the first female Oklahoman inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame: Wanda Jackson.

Adopted by the Senate the 10th day of February, 2009.

Presiding Officer of the Senate