

CHAPTER 66**(HJR 60)**

A JOINT RESOLUTION naming "The Tom T. Hall Highway."

WHEREAS, a "troubadour" is defined as a lyric poet who composes songs in complex metrical form; and

WHEREAS, America's greatest troubadour is without argument the Commonwealth's native son Tom T. Hall; and

WHEREAS, Tom T. Hall is the son of Virgil and Della Hall, born May 25, 1936, in a log cabin behind his grandfather's house at Tick Ridge, seven miles from Olive Hill, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, a poor but loving family sheltered Tom T. Hall as he began playing the guitar at the age of 4, began writing a novel at the age of 8, and composed his first song at the age of 9; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 13 Tom T. Hall's mother Della died of cancer and, at the age of 15 after his father was wounded in a hunting accident, Tom T. Hall dropped out of school to work in a garment factory to help support the family; and

WHEREAS, in his late teen years Tom T. Hall joined a local bluegrass band called "The Kentucky Travelers" and began working as a disc jockey at WMOR radio in Morehead, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, after being stationed in Germany and serving a three year tour of duty in the United States Army, Tom T. Hall had earned his high school diploma, as well as continuing to compose music; and

WHEREAS, by 1964 Tom T. Hall moved to Nashville with \$46 and a guitar to fully embrace his destiny as "America's Storyteller"; and

WHEREAS, Tom T. Hall has penned hundreds of songs that have been recorded by Dave Dudley, Jimmy Newman, Johnny Wright, The Statler Brothers, Faron Young, Loretta Lynn, Johnny Cash, George Jones, Waylon Jennings, Bobby Bare, and dozens of other musical artists; and

WHEREAS, Tom T. Hall has a remarkable penchant for writing children's music which he released between 1974 and 1988; and

WHEREAS, Tom T. Hall is known nationally as the TV star of "Pop Goes the Country" for three consecutive seasons (1980-83), as well as the longtime commercial spokesperson for Tyson Chicken and Chevrolet trucks; and

WHEREAS, Tom T. Hall has been a guest on almost every variety and talk show and was a 1980 inductee into the hallowed Grand Old Opry cast; and

WHEREAS, country music legend George Jones calls Tom T. Hall "by far the greatest songwriter/storyteller that country music has ever had"; and

WHEREAS, it is perhaps Tom T. Hall's gentle, understanding treatment of the common man that sets his music apart and is the root of his professional success. He explains in detail events in this country and what the people of this country are experiencing in their daily lives without resorting to a preaching or condescending attitude -- his appeal spans the entire musical spectrum; and

WHEREAS, Tom T. Hall is a down-to-earth individual who is the consummate storyteller, poet, philosopher, and songwriter;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. The members of this honorable body, both individually and collectively, honor our extremely gifted native son and exemplary ambassador of the Commonwealth, Tom T. Hall.

Section 2. In recognition of Tom T. Hall's immeasurable contributions to the world of music, the Transportation Cabinet is directed to name United States Route 60 between Morehead, Kentucky and Olive Hill, Kentucky "The Tom T. Hall Highway."

Section 3. The Transportation Cabinet shall within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Resolution erect signs that read "The Tom T. Hall Highway" on United States Route 60 between Morehead, Kentucky and Olive Hill, Kentucky.

Approved March 15, 2001