

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

**SESSION 2007
RATIFIED BILL**

**RESOLUTION 2007-38
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 97**

A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING NORTH CAROLINA NATIVES DON GIBSON AND EARL SCRUGGS.

Whereas, the State of North Carolina has served as the birthplace of numerous legendary artists, such as Cleveland County-born Don Gibson, singer and songwriter, and Earl Scruggs, singer, songwriter, and banjo player; and

Whereas, Don Gibson began his career with a Shelby band known as The Sons of Soil and recorded his first number one hit, "Oh Lonesome Me," in 1958; and

Whereas, Don Gibson had more than 80 charted records between 1956 and 1980 and wrote the song "I Can't Stop Loving You," which has been recorded more than 700 times by such artists as Elvis Presley and Ray Charles and has sold more than 30 million records worldwide; and

Whereas, Don Gibson was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1973 and the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2001; and

Whereas, Don Gibson died on November 17, 2003, at the age of 75; and

Whereas, Earl Eugene Scruggs was born on January 6, 1924, in Flint Hill, North Carolina, to George Elam Scruggs and Lula Ruppe Scruggs; and

Whereas, Earl Scruggs was born into a family of talented musicians, including his mother, who played the organ, his father, who played the banjo and fiddle, and his siblings, who played the banjo and guitar; and

Whereas, Earl Scruggs began playing the banjo at the young age of four; and

Whereas, between school and working on the family farm, Earl Scruggs spent much of his free time mastering the banjo; and

Whereas, at the age of 10, Earl Scruggs developed and began using his own unique three-fingered technique to play the banjo which would later become known as "Scruggs-Style Picking" and would be adopted by numerous banjo players around the world; and

Whereas, as a young man, Earl Scruggs worked in a textile mill to help support his widowed mother; and

Whereas, in 1945, Earl Scruggs joined Bill Monroe's Blue Grass Boys, a band whose members included Bill Monroe on mandolin, Lester Flatt on guitar, Chubby Wise on fiddle, and Cedric Rainwater on bass; and

Whereas, Earl Scruggs recorded a number of songs with the Blue Grass Boys before leaving the band in 1948; and

Whereas, Earl Scruggs later teamed up with Lester Flatt and formed the band The Foggy Mountain Boys; and

Whereas, The Foggy Mountain Boys became members of the Grand Ole Opry in 1955; and

Whereas, Earl Scruggs and The Foggy Mountain Boys produced such widely recognized tunes as "Foggy Mountain Breakdown," which was used in the 1967 film "Bonnie and Clyde," and "Ballad of Jed Clampett," which was the theme song for the TV show "The Beverly Hillbillies"; and

Whereas, in 1963, the "Ballad of Jed Clampett" became the first bluegrass song to reach the number one spot on the country music charts; and

Whereas, The Foggy Mountain Boys was one of the most successful bluegrass bands of all time and helped to influence generations of bluegrass musicians; and

Whereas, Earl Scruggs left The Foggy Mountain Boys in 1969 and formed the Earl Scruggs Revue featuring his son Randy Scruggs on guitar and vocals and his son Gary Scruggs on electric bass, vocals, and harmonica, and later, his son, Steve Scruggs on piano, guitar, and saxophone; and

Whereas, Earl Scruggs was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1985 and the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) Hall of Honor in 1991 and was awarded the National Heritage Fellowship Award and the President's National Medal of Arts; and

Whereas, Earl Scruggs has been nominated for numerous Grammy Awards and has won four, including two for renditions of "Foggy Mountain Breakdown"; and

Whereas, Earl Scruggs was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on February 13, 2003; and

Whereas, Earl Scruggs is highly respected among musicians, which is evident from the many performers who have made guest appearances on his albums, including Bob Dylan, Elton John, Sting, Melissa Etheridge, Johnny Cash, and Don Henley; and

Whereas, Earl Scruggs has had a profound impact on bluegrass and country music and thus has earned the admiration of the people of this State and the world; Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

SECTION 1. The General Assembly honors the memory of native son Don Gibson and expresses its appreciation for his invaluable contributions to the music industry.

SECTION 2. The General Assembly wishes to pay tribute to native son Earl Scruggs for his accomplishments as a musician and for his role in helping to popularize bluegrass and country music.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to Earl Scruggs and the family of Don Gibson.

SECTION 4. This resolution is effective upon ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 6th day of June, 2007.

Beverly E. Perdue
President of the Senate

Joe Hackney
Speaker of the House of Representatives