

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005**

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**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 169**

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Sponsors: Senators Dalton; Albertson and Hoyle.

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Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

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February 21, 2005

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

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

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

8       Whereas, Don Gibson had more than 80 charted records between 1956 and  
9 1980 and wrote the song "I Can't Stop Loving You," which has been recorded more than  
10 700 times by such artists as Elvis Presley and Ray Charles and has sold more than 30  
11 million records worldwide; and

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

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

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

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

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

21       Whereas, between school and working on the family farm, Earl Scruggs spent  
22 all his free time mastering the banjo; and

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

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

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

4           Whereas, Earl Scruggs recorded a number of songs with the Bluegrass Boys  
5 before leaving the band in 1948; and

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

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

10          Whereas, Earl Scruggs and The Foggy Mountain Boys produced such widely  
11 recognized tunes as "Foggy Mountain Breakdown," which was used in the 1967 film  
12 "Bonnie and Clyde," and "Dueling Banjos," which was used in the 1972 film  
13 "Deliverance," and "Ballad of Jed Clampett," which was the theme song for the TV  
14 show "The Beverly Hillbillies"; and

15          Whereas, in 1967, the "Ballad of Jed Clampett" became the first bluegrass  
16 song to reach the number one spot on the country music charts; and

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

20          Whereas, Earl Scruggs left The Foggy Mountain Boys in 1969 and formed  
21 the Earl Scruggs Revue featuring his son Randy Scruggs on guitar, bass, and vocals and  
22 his son Gary Scruggs on bass harmonica and vocals, along with Jody Maphis on drums  
23 and vocals; and

24          Whereas, Earl Scruggs was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in  
25 1985 and the International Bluegrass Music Awards (IBMA) Hall of Honor in 1991 and  
26 was awarded the National Heritage Fellowship Award and the President's National  
27 Medal of Arts; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1           **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of State shall transmit a certified copy of this  
2 resolution to Earl Scruggs and the family of Don Gibson.  
3           **SECTION 4.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.