

Enrolled

House Concurrent Resolution 8

Sponsored by Representative SMITH WARNER, Senator DEMBROW; Representative NOSSE (Pre-session filed.)

Whereas James Gilbert “Jim” Pepper, the great Native American musician, was born in Salem, Oregon, in 1941, grew up in the Parkrose neighborhood of Portland, and took his music to New York City, throughout Indian country and to Europe and Africa, bridging cultures and continents during his lifetime; and

Whereas Jim Pepper was of Kaw ancestry through his father, Gilbert Pepper, and of Muscogee (Creek) ancestry through his mother, Floy Pepper; and

Whereas Jim Pepper’s Kaw name, Hunga-che-ada, translates to Flying Eagle; and

Whereas Jim Pepper passed from this life in his Parkrose home in 1992 after succumbing to lymphoma at the age of 50; and

Whereas the Seventy-third Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon honored Jim Pepper in Senate Joint Resolution 31 (2005), sponsored by Senator Avel Gordly, which described what was known about Jim Pepper at the time the resolution was drafted; and

Whereas additional information about Jim Pepper’s life and achievements have since become known; and

Whereas Jim Pepper received awards and recognition during his lifetime and posthumously, including the First Americans in the Arts Lifetime Musical Achievement Award in 1999 and induction into the Native American Music Awards Hall of Fame in 2000 and the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame in 2007; and

Whereas the Oregon Music Hall of Fame honors Oregonians who have made outstanding contributions to, or who have had a significant impact on, the evolution, development and perpetuation of the music industry throughout this state; and

Whereas the Oregon Music Hall of Fame celebrated the induction of Jim Pepper among its inaugural cohort in 2007; and

Whereas Jim Pepper continues to receive posthumous recognition in the United States and in Europe; and

Whereas Jim Pepper was a founding member, along with Larry Coryell, Ra-Kalam Bob Moses, Chris Hills and Columbus “Chip” Baker, of The Free Spirits, which is recognized worldwide as the first jazz-rock fusion band in music history; and

Whereas the family of Jim Pepper gifted his tenor saxophone, turtle shell rattle, cap with eagle feather worn in concert, recordings and original sheet music to the National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution, in 2007, and some of this memorabilia has since been exhibited in both Washington, D.C., and New York City; and

Whereas musicians around the world continue to record their versions of Jim Pepper’s compositions, and he continues to influence Native American and non-Native American musicians working in many different genres; and

Whereas the annual Jim Pepper Native Arts Festival is now established in Jim Pepper’s home neighborhood, Parkrose, in partnership with the Parkrose School District, celebrating the music and legacy of Jim Pepper; and

Whereas the Jim Pepper Remembrance Scholarship Fund has been established to benefit both Parkrose music and dance students and Native American music and dance students living on or off reservations anywhere in the United States; and

Whereas Travel Portland has now dedicated an entire page on its website to Jim Pepper and the Jim Pepper Native Arts Festival in recognition that the acclaimed saxophonist, band leader and composer's legacy will grow over time as his accomplishments become better known; and

Whereas the Oregon Historical Society, the Portland Art Museum, the Multnomah County Library, KBOO 90.7 FM community radio, Portland Community Media (PCMTV), Metro East Media and the Parkrose School District are planning events in 2015 to remember and celebrate Jim Pepper or have already published or broadcast his music and information about his legacy and influence; and

Whereas the noted composer, conductor and author David Amram said of Jim Pepper, "Jim opened up a lot of doors to take people to places that they had never been before, and we all have to work to keep his legacy alive and open more doors for young people to inspire them to live their lives creatively and make a contribution to the world . . . the way Jim did"; and

Whereas in 2000, the composer and conductor Gunther Schuller, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Music in 1994, arranged, conducted and recorded Jim Pepper's music in Cologne, Germany, in an album titled, "Gunther Schuller's Witchi Tai To: The Music of Jim Pepper," and plans are underway to produce the American premiere performance of Gunther Schuller's arrangements in Portland, Oregon; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly, honor the extraordinary accomplishments and musical legacy of Oregon native son Jim Pepper; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Oregon Historical Society and to the National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution, in Washington, D.C., for inclusion in their permanent collections of Jim Pepper memorabilia; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Portland Art Museum, the Native American Music Awards, the Oregon Music Hall of Fame, the Commission on Indian Services, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Portland State University, the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, the Kaw Nation of Oklahoma, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, the Parkrose School District, the Jim Pepper Native Arts Festival board of directors and the family of Jim Pepper.

Adopted by House April 21, 2015

Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate May 13, 2015

Peter Courtney, President of Senate