

# House Concurrent Resolution 8

Sponsored by Representative SMITH WARNER, Senator DEMBROW (Presession filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Honors musical legacy of James Gilbert "Jim" Pepper.

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1  
2       Whereas James Gilbert "Jim" Pepper, the great Native American musician, was born in Salem,  
3 Oregon, in 1941, grew up in the Parkrose neighborhood of Portland, and took his music to New York  
4 City, throughout Indian country and to Europe and Africa, bridging cultures and continents during  
5 his lifetime; and

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

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

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

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

14       Whereas additional information about Jim Pepper's life and achievements have since become  
15 known; and

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

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

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

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

29       Whereas musicians around the world continue to record their versions of Jim Pepper's compos-  
30 itions, and he continues to influence Native American and non-Native American musicians working  
31 in many different genres; and

32       Whereas the annual Jim Pepper Native Arts Festival is now established in Jim Pepper's home

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 neighborhood, Parkrose, in partnership with the Parkrose School District, celebrating the music and  
2 legacy of Jim Pepper; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Portland Art Museum, the Native  
30 American Music Awards, the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, the Kaw Nation of Oklahoma, the  
31 Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, the Parkrose School District, the Jim Pepper Native Arts  
32 Festival board of directors and the family of Jim Pepper.

33