

## House Resolution 1199

By: Representatives Jenkins of the 8<sup>th</sup> and Ralston of the 7<sup>th</sup>

## A RESOLUTION

1 Commending "Fiddlin" Howard Cunningham on his accomplishments in his chosen field of  
2 music and entertainment and inviting him to appear before the House of Representatives; and  
3 for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, Howard Cunningham was born on November 27, 1928, to a farm family of six  
5 children in Clay County, North Carolina, near the town of Hayesville, North Carolina; and

6 WHEREAS, as a young lad of five years, his family moved to nearby Hiawassee, Georgia;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, his first fiddle was given to him at age 15 by brother-in-law Ross Brown, an  
9 old-time well-known fiddler; and

10 WHEREAS, upon graduation from high school, Howard joined a country band known as  
11 "The Crazy Cut Ups" working out of Greenville, South Carolina; they traveled the east  
12 Tennessee area, being guests on Knoxville's Mid Day Merry Go Round on several occasions;  
13 they later went to Statesboro, Georgia, playing two shows each day on radio station WWNS;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Howard returned home to Hiawassee and formed another group working  
16 Saturdays on WGGA in Gainesville, Georgia, playing square dances and schools in the north  
17 Georgia and western North Carolina area; and

18 WHEREAS, in 1950, the Georgia Mountain Fair was formed, and in 1952 Howard  
19 approached the fair management about the idea of starting a country music program, inviting  
20 area musicians to participate; from this humble beginning, Howard and others started this  
21 show under a shade tree, and today the Georgia Mountain Fair Country Music Hall's modern  
22 building seats 3,500 people with state of the art lighting and sound; and

1 WHEREAS, the Georgia Mountain Fair staff band was formed and is still featured at the  
2 Georgia Mountain Fair activities and also at the Fall Festival; the band opens for a lot of the  
3 Nashville acts as well as "Bob Will's Texas Playboys" and many more too numerous to  
4 mention; the members of the band have a total service of over 250 years, with Howard being  
5 the leader with 50 years; and

6 WHEREAS, Howard's special accomplishments, memberships, and awards include: host of  
7 the Georgia Mountain Fair's Music program; Georgia State Champion Fiddler's Convention;  
8 played at the American Heritage Music on the Mall at the Smithsonian in July 1981; played  
9 at The Festival of the Arts in Edinburgh, Scotland, in August 1984; played at the 1994  
10 Winter Olympics in Norway; played at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta; Tennessee  
11 State Champion Fiddle Player 1997; Smoky Mountain Fiddlers Contest Winner 1994;  
12 Atlanta Country Music Hall of Honor 1988; Atlanta Country Music Hall of Fame 1994; and  
13 the "Fiddlin" John Carson Award.

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that  
15 the members of this body commend "Fiddlin" Howard Cunningham on his accomplishments  
16 in the field of music and entertainment and invite him to appear before the House of  
17 Representatives at a time to be determined by the Speaker.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized  
19 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to "Fiddlin" Howard  
20 Cunningham.