

House Resolution 1922

By: Representatives Kaiser of the 59th, Frye of the 118th, Harbin of the 122nd, Hawkins of the 27th, Strickland of the 111th, and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of James van Buren Fowler; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens
3 with the passing of James van Buren Fowler; and
- 4 WHEREAS, James was born on June 29, 1959, in Decatur, Georgia; and
- 5 WHEREAS, his rock 'n' roll career began when he became a guitar tech for the Atlanta based
6 rock band Kansas; and
- 7 WHEREAS, James later followed his mentor, Mark "Microwave" Mytrowitz, to the R.E.M.
8 organization and toured with the band, first as a guitar tech and later as a side musician on
9 R.E.M.'s Pageantry tour in 1986 and Work tour in 1987; and
- 10 WHEREAS, R.E.M. introduced James to Kevn Kinney and Tim Nielsen from Drivin' N'
11 Cryin', and he joined the group just before the band released its breakthrough *Whisper Tames*
12 *the Lion* album in 1988; and
- 13 WHEREAS, his guitar playing was a mainstay in the band's most popular lineup; his work
14 highlights the band's hit albums *Mystery Road*, *Fly Me Courageous*, and *Smoke*; and
- 15 WHEREAS, songs such as "Honeysuckle Blue," "Fly Me Courageous," and "Build a Fire"
16 made Drivin' N' Cryin' one of this state's most beloved rock acts ever, with James and Kevn's
17 guitar interplay a large component of the band's success; and
- 18 WHEREAS, because he began his career on the back line crew, James had a special
19 understanding of what a great privilege it was to have the opportunity to make music for a
20 living; and

21 WHEREAS, he had a special rapport with the fans, hundreds of whom can tell personal
22 stories about his kindness and generosity; and

23 WHEREAS, in recent years, James made occasional on-stage appearances with the band and
24 was a big part of the 2012 documentary, *Scarred but Smarter: Life 'n Times of Drivin' N'
25 Cryin'*; and

26 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to Paula Parkinson Fowler and was blessed
27 with two remarkable children, Van and Ian, and two wonderful stepchildren, Michael and
28 Lucy; and

29 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, James will long be remembered for his love
30 of family and friendship, and this loyal gentleman and friend will be missed by all who had
31 the great fortune of knowing him.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
33 the members of this body join in honoring the life and memory of James van Buren Fowler
34 and express their deepest and most sincere regret at his passing.

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
36 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of James van
37 Buren Fowler.