

HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 6035

A RESOLUTION commending Randy Sparks.

WHEREAS, 2006 marks the 50th anniversary of Randy Sparks' first musical recording; and

WHEREAS, Randy Sparks was born on July 29, 1933, in Leavenworth, Kansas. Randy has a natural charm on stage and a wonderful way with a ballad. He supported himself while in college in the Bay Area in the mid 1950's by singing at The Purple Onion. After being drafted into the Navy, Randy won the ALL-NAVY TALENT CONTEST two consecutive years, winning appearances on the Ed Sullivan Show in 1956 and 1957. His first day as a civilian found him on the set of Robert Mitchum's movie Thunder Road where he sang the title song. Bob Hope discovered Randy and signed him to a multi-show contract. By 1961 he had three albums to his credit on the Verve Record label; and

WHEREAS, He organized an ensemble he called "The New Christy Minstrels, Under the Direction of Randy Sparks." He sought a powerful, robust vocal sound and recruited the best folk artists in California to join his New Christy Minstrels; and

WHEREAS, After three years of fame and fortune with The New Christy Minstrels, Randy dedicated himself to developing new groups and performers. He discovered new talent like Henry John Deutschendorf, whom he named John Denver, Steve Martin, Michael Martin Murphey, The Carpenters, Gary Muledeer, Michael Johnson and The First Edition—including its bass player, Kenny Rogers; and

WHEREAS, In this 50th year as a recording artist, Randy and his wife, former actress Diane Jergens, celebrate "The New Christy Minstrels, Under the Direction of Randy Sparks", by continuing to offer concerts featuring as many as seven out of ten of the original Minstrels, from Washington to Pennsylvania and Florida to California, making this act one of the most authentic folk groups available today: Now, therefore,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Kansas:* That the house commends Grammy winning Randy Sparks on his legendary accomplishments as a television, movie and recording pioneer and artist.

I hereby certify that the above RESOLUTION originated in the HOUSE, and was adopted by that body

---

*Speaker of the House.*

---

*Chief Clerk of the House.*