

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 1731

A RESOLUTION recommending Barry Ward as the 2026 Kansas State Balladeer.

WHEREAS, The State Balladeer is a person who sings and writes ballads that celebrate our state's history, culture and people; and

WHEREAS, Barry Ward is an award-winning singer and songwriter and a fourth-generation farmer and stockman from Copeland in southwest Kansas; and

WHEREAS, Barry Ward's song, "Harvest in the Fall," which is about his uncle Tommy Ward's last wheat harvest, was featured in the documentary, "The Great American Wheat Harvest"; and

WHEREAS, Barry Ward has traveled the country, performing on several stages in the lower 48 states and Alaska, including at Carnegie Hall in New York City and the Walnut Valley Festival in Winfield, Kansas. He has also performed in three foreign countries; and

WHEREAS, Barry Ward has been named Male Performer of the Year, been awarded for Song of the Year, and has received multiple CD of the Year awards. He was feted with a Kansas Senate Floor tribute on April 30, 2024, for his many contributions to music and his community; and

WHEREAS, Barry Ward has received recognition from several organizations for his musical talents, including the Academy of Western Artists, the Western Music Division of the Country Gospel Music Association, the International Western Music Association and the Rural Roots Music Commission; and

WHEREAS, Barry Ward was inducted into the Kansas Cowboy Hall of Fame, at the Boot Hill Museum in Dodge City, as a Cowboy Artist and Entertainer in 2014: Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That we honor and recommend Barry Ward as the 2026 Kansas State Balladeer; and

Be it further resolved: That the Secretary of the Senate shall send two enrolled copies of this resolution to Senator Ryckman.

Senate Resolution No. 1731 was sponsored by Senator Ron Ryckman.

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

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.