

## Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 88

### RESOLUTION CHAPTER 154

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 88—Relative to John William Coltrane.

[Filed with Secretary of State September 11, 2002.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 88, Karnette. John William Coltrane.

This measure would recognize the 75th anniversary of the birth of musician John William Coltrane.

WHEREAS, John William Coltrane was born on September 23, 1926, in Hamlet, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, His mother sang and played piano and his father, a tailor by trade, played clarinet and violin; and

WHEREAS, He spent his adolescence in High Point, North Carolina, before moving to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1943; and

WHEREAS, He attended Ornstein School of Music in Philadelphia, where he studied saxophone and supported himself by working in a sugar refinery; and

WHEREAS, In 1945, he was inducted into the United States Navy and stationed in Hawaii, where he played clarinet in the United States Navy marching band; and

WHEREAS, Upon returning to civilian life in 1946, he continued his musical studies and began playing saxophone professionally in a variety of jazz bands; and

WHEREAS, In 1948 he joined legendary trumpet player Dizzy Gillespie's band, and throughout the 1950s played with jazz luminaries such as Earl Bostic, Johnny Hodges, Miles Davis, and Thelonious Monk; and

WHEREAS, By 1960 he had formed his own band and had developed his own style on the saxophone known as "sheets of sound," which "broke the fine line of delineation between noise and music, shouting at the complacency and mediocrity around him"; and

WHEREAS, He not only used traditional elements of jazz music, but also explored musical ideas from other cultures, including those of India, Africa, and Latin America; and

WHEREAS, From 1960 until his death from cancer on July 17, 1967, he made some of the greatest and most famous jazz recordings of all time; and



WHEREAS, He once said the following regarding his music: “I want to be a force for real good. In other words, I know that there are bad forces, forces that bring suffering to others and misery to the world, but I want to be the opposite force. I want to be the force which is truly for good”; and

WHEREAS, He is considered one of the most influential artists, musical or otherwise, of the 20th century; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring,* That the Legislature recognizes the 75th anniversary of the birth of John William Coltrane.

