



HR 9139

2003

House Resolution

A resolution honoring Fred "Mister" Rogers.

WHEREAS, Fred McFeely Rogers was born on March 20, 1928, in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, and earned a bachelors degree in music composition in 1951 from Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, where he found inspiration in a plaque that reads "Life is for service," and

WHEREAS, in 1952, Mister Rogers married Joanne Byrd, a concert pianist and fellow Rollins College graduate, and returned to Pennsylvania in 1953, where he began his career in children's television, producing the show, "the Children's Corner," and

WHEREAS, Mister Rogers graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and was ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1963, with a charge to continue his work with children and families through the mass media, and

WHEREAS, in 1968 the popular program "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" debuted and went on to become the longest-running children's program on public television, producing about 1,000 episodes before the final show was taped in 2001, and

WHEREAS, Mister Rogers was the composer and lyricist of over 200 songs and the author of numerous books for children and adults, and

WHEREAS, Mister Rogers received over 40 honorary degrees from colleges and universities, including his alma mater, Rollins College, and received two Peabody Awards, four Emmys, Lifetime Achievement Awards from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences and the Television Critics Association, and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, as well



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31 as every major award in television for which he was eligible,
32 and in 1999 was inducted into the Television Hall of Fame, and

33 WHEREAS, in 2002, President George W. Bush presented Mister
34 Rogers with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's
35 highest civilian honor, recognizing his contribution to the
36 well-being of children and his career in public television that
37 demonstrates the importance of kindness, compassion, and
38 learning, and

39 WHEREAS, after 40 years of America's children eagerly
40 awaiting his daily visits into their homes, Mister Rogers died
41 at his home on February 27, 2003, and today generations join his
42 wife, two sons, and two grandsons in mourning the passing of a
43 very dear friend, NOW, THEREFORE,

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45 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
46 Florida:

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48 That the House of Representatives salutes Fred McFeely
49 Rogers, one of America's consummate role models and educator of
50 children and adults alike.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be
52 presented to Joanne Rogers as a tangible token of the sentiments
53 expressed herein.

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