

RESOLUTION NO. RS2018-1117

A resolution recognizing the renowned Roland White, a pioneer and legendary bluegrass mandolin player.

WHEREAS, at an early age, Roland White, along with his siblings Clarence, Eric and Joanne formed a bluegrass band that performed locally in their native Maine. When the family moved to California the boys won a talent show on local radio, as The Country Boys, landing them regular work in clubs, radio and television around Los Angeles, including the Andy Griffith Show; and

WHEREAS, after Roland's two-year US Army enlistment, the group was renamed the Kentucky Colonels and toured the United States, electrifying audiences with their virtuosic playing and singing. In 1964, they made a landmark instrumental album, Appalachian Swing. In 1967, Roland began a stint as guitar player with the Blue Grass Boys, the band of his mentor Bill Monroe. In 1969, he joined Lester Flatt's Nashville Grass, staying until 1973, when he, Clarence and Eric re-united as The New Kentucky Colonels. The reunion was short-lived, due to the tragic accidental death of his brother Clarence. Roland then began a thirteen-year tenure with progressive west coast group Country Gazette, playing guitar and then mandolin. In 1989 Roland joined the Nashville Bluegrass Band, who distinguished themselves as the premier bluegrass band of their generation, winning two Grammy Awards and Grammy nominations on all of their albums; and

WHEREAS, in 2000 Roland formed the Roland White Band, and earned a Grammy nomination for their first recording: "Jelly on My Tofu". Roland has been honored for his unique style, achievements, and contributions to bluegrass music, including being part of the Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum's Oral History Collection in 1993, as an inductee into the Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music of America in 2010, and was inducted into the International Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame in 2017. 2018 marks Roland's 80th birthday and he has no plans to retire. Roland and his band continue to perform, record and teach around the world; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Metropolitan Council recognize Roland White a frontiersman of bluegrass, and commend him for his many successes in the arena; as a musician and educator and wish him continued success as he keeps on picking.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. The Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as recognizing and congratulating Roland White as he is inducted into the International Bluegrass Music Association Hall of Fame and for his tremendous contribution to the history of bluegrass music.

Section 2. The Metropolitan Council Office is directed to prepare a copy of this Resolution to be presented to Mr. Roland White.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of The Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

INTRODUCED BY:

Jeff Syracuse
Member of Council