

Reps. Lemmons, III, Lemmons, Jr., Accavitti, Adamini, Anderson, Ball, Cheeks, Clack, Condino, Farhat, Farrah, Garfield, Gillard, Hopgood, Huizenga, Jones, Kolb, Kathleen Law, Mayes, Meisner, Miller, Murphy, Palmer, Pearce, Sak, Sheltroun, Stahl, Tobocman, Vagnozzi, Waters, Zelenko, Brown, Leland, Schuitmaker, Alma Smith, McConico, Phillips, Byrum, LaJoy and Byrnes offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 87.

A resolution to extol and honor internationally acclaimed Motown Records and its founder Berry Gordy Jr.

Whereas, Berry Gordy Jr., a musical and entrepreneurial visionary, has forever affixed Detroit, Michigan as a permanent fixture in the history of music. Motown has become an icon in the socio-cultural fabric of the American life from the 1960s to the present; and

Whereas, Berry Gordy Jr. was born to Berry and Bertha Gordy, in Harper Hospital in Detroit, Michigan, on November 28, 1929; and

Whereas, In 1958, Berry Gordy wisely established a publishing company called, Jobete Music Co. Inc. to guard against predators in the music industry. In that same vein, Mr. Gordy founded two record labels in 1959, Tamla and Motown with an eight-hundred dollar loan from his family; and

Whereas, In 1959, Berry Gordy Jr. purchased a two-story house on West Grand Boulevard in Detroit. He transformed it into a first-rate recording studio. Hitsville, as it was called, served as the site of one of the most phenomenally prolific production facilities ever; and

Whereas, The list of stars who recorded at Hitsville have become household names, such as: Smokey Robinson and the Miracles, Mary Wells, Marvin Gaye, Diana Ross and the Supremes, The Temptations, Stevie Wonder, the Marvelettes, Martha Reeves and the Vandellas, the Contours, Holland-Dozier-Holland, The Four Tops, Jr. Walker and the All-Stars, Tammi Terrell, Nick Ashford and Valerie Simpson, and Gladys Knight and the Pips; and

Whereas, With the addition of other production facilities in Downtown Detroit and California, Motown still kept producing stars, such as: the Jackson 5, Lionel Richie and the Commodores, the DeBarge Family, Rick James, and the Spinners; and

Whereas, Motown's leadership in the African-American Filmmaking industry manifested in the movies. Lady Sings the Blues, Mahogany, the Wiz, Bingo Long and the Traveling All-Stars and Motor Kings, Scot Joplin, and the Last Dragon were all touched by Berry Gordy. Motown was also quite active in television production with two Emmy winning shows Motown Returns to the Apollo and Motown 25: Yesterday, Today, Forever. Other Motown televisions ventures included selected Movies-of-the-Week, The Motown Revue featuring Smokey Robinson, a weekly summer show and Motown on Showtime; and

Whereas, Motown pioneered in the field personal growth and development for it entourage of stars, as it instituted the Artistic Development Department, under Harvey Fuqua, which taught proper decorum, adherence to protocol, and the essentials of exuding class and style. The legendary Maxine Powell brought her finishing school expertise, Cholly Atkins provided world-class choreography and Maurice King supplied a professional regimen of musically aesthetic sensibilities with keen insights into band arrangements and harmonics; and

Whereas, Motown, founded by Berry Gordy Jr., originating from Detroit, was sold in 1988 for 61 million dollars and was subsequently sold for 325 million in 1993; now, therefore be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body honor and applaud the unprecedented achievements of Berry Gordy Jr. and Motown Records; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted throughout Michigan and to members of the Gordy Family.