

Proclamation of Recognition

WHEREAS, Milton Brown was born in Stephenville to cotton sharecroppers in 1903; and

WHEREAS, Milton Brown displayed great musical promise as a vocalist from a young age and formed the Wills Fiddle Band with his friends and family; and

WHEREAS, the Wills Fiddle Band gained notoriety at dance halls in and around Fort Worth, the birthplace of Western Swing; and

WHEREAS, in 1932, Milton Brown formed his own band, Milton Brown and His Musical Brownies – a prototypical western swing band that consisted of fiddles, guitars, banjo, bass, and piano – became a mainstay in North and Central Texas; and

WHEREAS, the ensemble offered a ray of joy during a bleak chapter of U.S. history, and its style influenced legendary artists such as Spade Cooley, Tex Williams, and Bob Wills; and

WHEREAS, after his tragic death in 1936, Milton was inducted into the Texas Music Hall of Fame and the Western Swing Society Hall of Fame, which cemented his status as a Texas music icon; and

WHEREAS, Milton Brown is buried in the Smith Springs Cemetery in Erath County; and

WHEREAS, Western Swing music stands as a shining example of Texas' contributions to American culture at large, and this legacy was built in no small part by Milton Brown, the Father of Swing; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Doug Svien, Mayor of the City of Stephenville, do hereby proclaim September 8, 2023, as

MILTON BROWN DAY

in the City of Stephenville and urge all residents and employees to join in celebrating his storied career and legacy left in Texas music history. I hope you are inspired to emulate the qualities that propelled him to greatness.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my hand and seal of the City on this the 5th day of September 2023.

Doug Svien, Mayor