

By: Senator(s) Blackmon, Johnson (19th),  
Hall, Horhn

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 533  
(As Adopted by Senate)

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION HONORING THE CANTON SPIRITUALS OF  
2 CANTON, MISSISSIPPI, ON THEIR FIRST LIVE RECORDING IN JACKSON,  
3 MISSISSIPPI, AT GREATER BETHLEHEM TEMPLE APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH,  
4 1505 ROBINSON STREET, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6,  
5 1999.

6 WHEREAS, The Canton Spirituals was organized and founded in  
7 the early 1940's by Mr. Warren G. Ward, Rev. I.S. Watkins and the  
8 late Mr. Harvey Watkins, Sr., of Canton, Mississippi; and

9 WHEREAS, The Canton Spirituals' contribution to the gospel  
10 music industry has been, and continues to be, phenomena. The  
11 project "Live in Jackson, Mississippi" promises fans worldwide to  
12 be the very best of The Canton Spirituals; and

13 WHEREAS, they acquired national recognition as the only  
14 gospel quartet in America, and the only Mississippi gospel artist  
15 to receive two Stellars at the 1997 Stellar Gospel Music Awards;  
16 and

17 WHEREAS, among other accomplishments, they have received  
18 honors such as: the 1998 Urban Network Award, the 1998 Gospel  
19 Artist of the Year Award, 1998 Inductees into the Gospel Music  
20 Hall of Fame, and 1993 Grammy nominees for the project, "Live in  
21 Memphis I." The Canton Spirituals is credited for inspiring and  
22 encouraging many local and nationally known artists to pursue  
23 their dreams in spirit and truth. Their love and adoration for  
24 their music is authentically expressed through true commitment to  
25 God, and to one another; and

26 WHEREAS, The Canton Spirituals consist of eight members; they  
27 are: Victor Allen, Merlin Lucious, Michael Richardson, Wallace

28 Strickland, Theo Thompson, Norman Williams, Cornelius DeWayne  
29 Watkins and Harvey Watkins, Jr.; The Canton Spirituals' executive  
30 staff is: Thomas C. Saulsberry, Booking Agent; Leon White and  
31 James Moye, Transportation Coordinators; and

32 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize a group of  
33 citizens who have presented to the world a positive image for the  
34 State of Mississippi:

35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
36 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
37 we do hereby commend and honor The Canton Spirituals of Canton,  
38 Mississippi, on their first live recording in Jackson,  
39 Mississippi, at Greater Bethlehem Temple Apostolic Faith Church,  
40 1505 Robinson Street, Jackson, Mississippi, Saturday, February 6,  
41 1999.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
43 The Canton Spirituals and that copies be made available to the  
44 Capitol Press Corps.