

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

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 533
(As Adopted by House and 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.