

By: Senator(s) Posey, Ferris, Hall

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 563

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO COMMEND THE MUSEUM OF SOUTHERN
2 JEWISH EXPERIENCE OF UTICA, MISSISSIPPI, AS A RECIPIENT OF A
3 GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS.

4 WHEREAS, the Museum of Southern Jewish Experience of Utica,
5 Mississippi, mounted a special exhibit entitled "Alsace to
6 America" in Jackson; and

7 WHEREAS, the Alsace to America exhibit treated thousands of
8 visitors to a new understanding of the rich tradition of Jewish
9 life in Mississippi and the South through this artistic
10 presentation of cultural artifacts; and

11 WHEREAS, the private museum in Utica, which interprets,
12 documents and preserves the long history of Jewish culture in the
13 South, brought to life the struggles and triumphs of Jews who
14 sought freedom in the American South; and

15 WHEREAS, these pioneers from France and Germany, who helped
16 settle towns along the Mississippi River from New Orleans to
17 Memphis, were social, political and cultural leaders in their
18 communities; and

19 WHEREAS, through an extensive collection of artifacts, this
20 exhibit chronicled the life of these prosperous communities during
21 the early 1900's; and

22 WHEREAS, a gradual exodus from these rural communities to
23 urban settings left a dwindling Jewish population in these areas;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, under the guidance of Macy B. Hart, executive
26 director of the museum, the vision for preservation was expressed

27 when he said, "The story of Southern Jews is the story of rural
28 America. We have a rich legacy, like all small town folks, and
29 it's important to protect our history."; and

30 WHEREAS, superior historical research and exhibit design
31 coupled with the sensitive portrayal of Jewish heritage, artistry,
32 and culture established the Alsace to America exhibit as an
33 enduring legacy of Jewish communities in the South; and

34 WHEREAS, the museum is entirely worthy of the honor bestowed
35 as the recipient of the Heritage Award in the Governor's
36 Excellence in the Arts program:

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MISSISSIPPI STATE
38 SENATE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That we
39 do hereby commend and congratulate the Museum of Southern Jewish
40 Experience of Utica, Mississippi, upon the occasion of its receipt
41 of the Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts Heritage Award
42 for the Alsace to America exhibit.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
44 presented to Macy B. Hart, executive director of the museum.