

By: Walls, Furniss, Horhn

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 5

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE OF DELTA BLUES PERFORMER
2 WADE WALTON, SR., AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

3 WHEREAS, Wade Walton, Sr., was born October 10, 1923, in
4 Lumbardy, Sunflower County, Mississippi, to the late Mr. Frank and
5 Lubertha Walton; and

6 WHEREAS, "Wade," as he was known by most, operated a barber
7 shop in Clarksdale, Mississippi, in the Issaquena and 4th Street
8 area from May 17, 1943 (about 55 years), until he departed this
9 life on Monday, January 10, 2000; and

10 WHEREAS, "Wade" was one of the original Delta Blues pioneers,
11 having performed with Ike Turner, Sonny Boy Williams, Muddy
12 Waters, Howling Wolf, Gate Mouth Moore, and others; and

13 WHEREAS, in the early 1950's he made live appearances on the
14 radio show of the first Black disc jockey in the State of
15 Mississippi, his lifelong friend "Early" Wright of Clarksdale,
16 Mississippi; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1958 he released a blues album entitled "The
18 Blues of Wade Walton - Shake-'em On Down" which was recorded in
19 Bergen Field, New Jersey, and released in the United States,
20 Europe and Australia. He also made local recordings at Stack
21 House Records on the Rooster Blues Label in Clarksdale,

22 Mississippi, during the late 1980's, entitled "Leaving 4th Street"
23 and "Razor Strap Boogie." Although "Wade," as most people called
24 him, received numerous offers to travel and perform and entertain
25 the world over, could have traveled the world over as a blues
26 entertainer, he chose to operate all of his life from his barber
27 shop in Clarksdale, Mississippi. One of the highlights of getting
28 a haircut at Wade's Barber Shop was to be entertained by his
29 renditions of Rhythm & Blues rhythms with the use of a razor and
30 strap, and "picking" the guitar and singing the blues; and

31 WHEREAS, he became nationally known for his barbering,
32 singing, picking the guitar, playing the harmonica and the musical
33 razor strap; and

34 WHEREAS, a very religious man, Wade Walton was responsible
35 for giving an encouraging word and precepts for life to many, many
36 young people with whom he came in contact that helped them to
37 become productive citizens, including, but not limited to, Senator
38 Johnnie E. Walls, Jr., the author of this resolution; and

39 WHEREAS, during the late 1950's and 1960's Wade participated
40 in the "Civil Rights Movement" with such notable people as his
41 friend, Dr. and State Representative Aaron E. Henry, Medgar Evers
42 and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as making sure that they
43 had neat haircuts when in his presence; and

44 WHEREAS, Wade will be missed by his many customers, friends
45 and admirers and mourned by his surviving wife, Rose Walton:

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
47 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the life of Delta Blues
48 performer Wade Walton, Sr., and express the sympathy of the
49 Legislature on his passing.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
51 presented to the family of Wade Walton, Sr., and be made available
52 to the Capitol Press Corps.