

By: Jordan, Walls, Harden, Jackson, Simmons, To: Rules
Frazier, Gollott, Hewes, Dawkins, Johnson
(19th), Cuevas, Stogner, Browning,
Chamberlin, Furniss, Lee, Turner, King,
Hyde-Smith, Williamson, Carmichael, Carlton,
Nunnelee, Mettetal, Little, Scoper, Harvey,
Hamilton, White (5th), Smith, Kirby, Thames,
Huggins, Dickerson, Burton, Farris

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 43

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CAREER AND HUMANITARIANISM OF
2 NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN BLUES SINGER MR. BOBBY RUSH.

3 WHEREAS, Jackson, Mississippi-based soul-blues showman Bobby
4 Rush is regarded as the "best live performer" on the Rhythm and
5 Blues festival and club circuit; and

6 WHEREAS, this urban storyteller-singer-songwriter-musician-
7 producer-master showman was born Emmett Ellis, Jr., named after
8 his father, a preacher, in 1940 near the rural town of Homer,
9 Louisiana; and

10 WHEREAS, the Malaco Recording artist has been a mainstay of
11 the southern blues circuit for over 40 years and has written
12 chart-hitting songs in Billboard, Cashbox and Jet magazines,
13 including "Chicken Heads," "Camel Walk," "A Woman Named Trouble,"
14 "Niki Hoeky," "What's Good For The Goose is Good For the Gander,"
15 "Big Fat Woman" and "Hen Pecked" among many other classics; and

16 WHEREAS, while Bobby Rush is known for his amazing stage show
17 and outstanding performances on the 21 releases that span his
18 career, few people know of Rush's dedication to his community in
19 Jackson, Mississippi; for years Bobby has taken time off the road
20 to raise money for sickle cell anemia research, child care, school
21 band uniforms and musical equipment and used his tour bus to
22 transport people to the polls on election day and encourages young
23 people to be civic minded and help their communities; and

24 WHEREAS, Bobby promotes the Blues by participating in the
25 "Blues in the Schools" programs nationwide during Black History
26 Month, visits schools throughout Mississippi and Alabama, and

27 volunteers his own home as an emergency shelter for children
28 leaving the Hinds County Youth Correctional Facility in Raymond,
29 Mississippi; and

30 WHEREAS, this one of a kind performer has received the
31 following honors: winner of the Critics Choice Award for Best
32 Live Performer for 1999, 1998, 1997 and 1995 by "Living Blues
33 Magazine"; voted U.S. Soul-R&B Performer of the Year 1999 and 1998
34 by "Real Blues Magazine"; voted Artist of the Year for 1997 by
35 "Bluespeak Magazine"; voted Best Live Performer for 1999 and 1996
36 by "Real Blues Magazine"; nominated for two W.C. Handy Awards in
37 1999; nominated for nine W.C. Handy Awards in four years; winner
38 of five Living Blues Awards in 1998; and

39 WHEREAS, on November 9, 1998, at the House of Blues in Los
40 Angeles, California, Bobby Rush received The Blues Foundation's
41 second annual "B.B. King Blues Hero" Award to recognize a Blues
42 artist whose career has been characterized by community service
43 and charitable activity, under which he donated his honorarium to
44 a program to provide computers for Mississippi classrooms; and

45 WHEREAS, with professional accomplishments and personal acts
46 of humanitarianism such as these, we are proud and honored to
47 extend congratulations to this adopted Mississippian who is truly
48 a credit to his community, to his art and to the State of
49 Mississippi:

50 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
51 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the career and
52 humanitarianism of nationally and internationally known Blues
53 singer Mr. Bobby Rush, and encourage everyone to catch his show.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
55 presented to Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Rush and be made available to the
56 Capitol Press Corps.