

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

To: Rules

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 13

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING DR. RUSSELL THOMAS, JR. UPON  
2 RECEIVING THE MUSIC EDUCATOR AWARD OF THE 2002 GOVERNOR'S AWARDS  
3 FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Russell Thomas, Jr. is the recipient of the  
5 Music Educator Award of the 2002 Governor's Awards for Excellence  
6 in the Arts; and

7 WHEREAS, he is the founder of the "Jazz In The Schools"  
8 program, which is dedicated to the teaching of jazz history, music  
9 and improvisation concepts in kindergarten through secondary  
10 school; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Russell Thomas, Jr. has presented numerous jazz  
12 education workshops at the International Association of Jazz  
13 Educators Conference, Southern Arts Exchange Conference, North  
14 American Saxophone Alliance Conference, National Black Music  
15 Caucus Conference and the International Conference on Music and  
16 Dance; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Russell Thomas, Jr. received the Fulbright Group  
18 Project Abroad Fellowship in 1996 to study traditional Chinese  
19 music in China and a fellowship for the GHANA (West Africa)  
20 Freedom Tour '97 to study the music and religion of West Africa;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Russell Thomas, Jr. is an outstanding  
23 saxophonist who has performed nationally and internationally with  
24 noted jazz musicians and groups as the Little Milton Blues Band,  
25 Clark Terry, Joe Henderson, Dizzy Gillespie, David Barker, Bunky  
26 Green, the Lionel Hampton Big Band and the Bluz Boys Band; and



27           WHEREAS, Dr. Russell Thomas, Jr. has received numerous honors  
28 and awards, including the Jackson State University Outstanding  
29 Faculty Award, the WLBT TV 3 Spirit of Mississippi Award and the  
30 Black Jazz Music Award; and

31           WHEREAS, Dr. Russell Thomas, Jr. received a Bachelor's Degree  
32 in Music Education from Jackson State University, a Master's  
33 Degree in Music Education from Michigan State University and a  
34 Doctorate of Philosophy from the University of Utah; and

35           WHEREAS, Dr. Russell Thomas, Jr. is sharing his talents and  
36 knowledge of jazz with the youth of America as the Professor of  
37 Music and Director of Jazz Education at Jackson State University;  
38 and

39           WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Legislature to recognize and  
40 commend the outstanding accomplishments and contributions of the  
41 citizens of Mississippi:

42           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
43 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend Dr. Russell Thomas, Jr.  
44 upon his receipt of the Music Educator Award of the 2002  
45 Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts.

46           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
47 presented to Dr. Russell Thomas, Jr.

