

By: Senator(s) Little, Dawkins, Gordon,
Harden, Minor, Smith, Walls, White

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 564

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE
2 RUST COLLEGE A'CAPPELLA CHOIR UPON ITS RECEIPT OF THE 2003
3 GOVERNOR'S EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS AWARD IN THE CATEGORY OF
4 CULTURAL AMBASSADORS.

5 WHEREAS, internationally known Rust College A'Cappella Choir
6 from Holly Springs, Mississippi, is the recipient of the 2003
7 Governor's Excellence in the Arts Award in the category of
8 Cultural Ambassadors; and

9 WHEREAS, for nearly 70 years the Rust College A'Cappella
10 Choir has been a dynamic premiere choral ensemble and a living
11 Mississippi folk tradition with a record of outstanding
12 performances. With its richly textured and tightly harmonized
13 sound, the Choir has achieved international acclaim performing and
14 recording its eclectic repertoire of classical music, gospel and
15 Negro spirituals, and show and pop tunes. The Choir has toured
16 extensively throughout the United States, Africa and Europe,
17 performing at major concert halls, churches and conferences, two
18 world's fairs, international choral festivals and high-profile and
19 social events; and

20 WHEREAS, the Choir was founded in 1934 by Natalie Doxey, a
21 native Mississippian and one-time piano accompanist of singer
22 Marian Anderson. She remained director until her retirement in
23 1967. Subsequent directors included Lassaye Homes, Dr. Eddie
24 Jones, Vernon Robinson and Dr. Barbara S. Ricks. Since 1990,
25 Zebedee Reynolds Jones has conducted the Choir; and

26 WHEREAS, for much of the 20th Century, the Choir was able to
27 promote better racial understanding between northern whites and
28 African-Americans and Mississippi's African-American and white



29 communities. The Choir and its various male and female ensembles
30 were among the first singing groups featured at predominantly
31 white churches in Mississippi, as well as at mixed civic social
32 events. The 1968 concert given at the Mississippi Coliseum in
33 Jackson by Leontyne Price on behalf of Rust College and the Choir
34 was a sellout performance and a major accomplishment in breaking
35 down segregated seating and mixed concert attendance at a major
36 venue in the state; and

37 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the
38 contributions of this national and internationally known musical
39 group which has brought honor to its college, its community and to
40 the State of Mississippi:

41 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
42 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
43 we do hereby commend and congratulate the Rust College A'Cappella
44 Choir upon its receipt of the 2003 Governor's Excellence in the
45 Arts Award in the category of Cultural Ambassadors, and extend to
46 the membership of the Choir the best wishes of the Legislature on
47 its future success.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Resolution be presented to
49 the Rust College A'Cappella Choir at induction ceremonies on
50 February 28, 2003, and be made available to the Capitol Press
51 Corps.

