

By: Senator(s) Little, Dawkins, Hamilton,
Harden, Jackson, Smith, Tollison, Walls

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 571

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING
2 MISSISSIPPI BLUES LEGEND LITTLE MILTON (CAMPBELL) UPON HIS RECEIPT
3 OF THE 2003 GOVERNOR'S EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS AWARD IN THE
4 CATEGORY OF BLUES AMBASSADOR.

5 WHEREAS, one of the blues' foremost artists by anybody's
6 standards is Little Milton. The guitar master has the licks and
7 the hits to prove it, remaining at the forefront as one of the
8 blues' greatest pioneers; and

9 WHEREAS, one of his recent milestones was his receipt of the
10 2003 Governor's Excellence in the Arts Award in the category of
11 Blues Ambassador; and

12 WHEREAS, Little Milton (Campbell) was born in a
13 sharecropper's home just outside of Inverness, Mississippi. As a
14 child, he found an early connection to country and western music
15 and later fused that connection with gospel and blues. In his
16 youth Milton began studying what he heard, mastering songs and
17 reciting them no matter the style or difficulty. By his teens, he
18 was performing in local clubs and bars across the Delta; and

19 WHEREAS, as Milton grew, he attracted the attention of
20 established acts and local record labels. In the early 1950's,
21 the seasoned performer was introduced by Ike Turner to Sam
22 Phillips of Sun Records, where he recorded his debut single,
23 *Beggin' My Baby*. Milton later moved to Bobbin Records, where he
24 became Bobbin's A&R chief and working partner and where he
25 recorded his first hit, *I'm A Lonely Man*, in 1958; and

26 WHEREAS, Milton's success drew the attention of Chess
27 Records, who signed him to Chess Checkers label. In 1965, he
28 recorded "*We're Gonna Make It*", which hit No. 1 on Billboard's R&B



29 singles chart. From 1962 to 1971, he registered many hits that
30 would become American blues classics. In 1983, he released his
31 only album for MCA, *Age Ain't Nothin But A Number*. The title cut
32 was an instant charted hit. In 1984, Milton united with Jackson,
33 Mississippi-based Malaco Records and became one of the company's
34 biggest selling artists. He won the 1988 W.C. Handy Blues
35 Entertainer of the Year Award and received a 2000 Grammy Award
36 nomination. He also was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame. In
37 2001 Milton had a successful run of sold-out shows in Europe and
38 released his most recent CD, *Fell It*; and

39 WHEREAS, Little Milton calls the blues "the most meaningful
40 music because the blues comes from the soul, it's a true
41 expression of what you feel"; and

42 WHEREAS, many of Little Milton's Malaco cuts that have become
43 American blues standards including: *Annie Mae's Cafe, The Blues*
44 *Is Alright, Little Bluebird, Room 244, Strugglin' Lady, I was*
45 *Trying Not To Break Down, Catch You On Your Way Down, Murder On*
46 *Your Hands* and *Comeback Kind Of Love*; and

47 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this blues
48 legend who has brought honor to the Delta Community and to the
49 entire State of Mississippi:

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
51 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
52 we do hereby commend and congratulate blues legend and Mississippi
53 Delta native Little Milton (Campbell) upon his receipt of the 2003
54 Governor's Excellence in the Arts Award in the category of Blues
55 Ambassador, and extend to him and his family the best wishes of
56 the Legislature for future success.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
58 Little Milton at induction ceremonies on February 28, 2003, and be
59 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

