

By: Senator(s) Thomas, Jordan

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 578

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CAREER OF MUSIC
2 HERITAGE PIONEER REVEREND ARNOLD DWIGHT "GATEMOUTH" MOORE.

3 WHEREAS, one of Mississippi's foremost music heritage
4 pioneers, by anybody's standards, is Reverend Arnold Dwight
5 "Gatemouth" Moore, Pastor of the Lintonia A.M.E. Church in Yazoo
6 City, Mississippi; and

7 WHEREAS, born November 8, 1915, in Topeka, Kansas, Arnold
8 Dwight Moore, nicknamed "Gatemouth" because of his loud singing
9 and speaking voice, traveled to Memphis, Tennessee in the early
10 1930s. He attended elementary school at the old Kortrecht
11 Intermediate School and graduated from Booker T. Washington High
12 School under the principalship of the great Educator Blair T. Hunt
13 in 1938, along with Judge Benjamin Hooks, now Chairman of the
14 National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and
15 soon to be Director of the Civil Rights Museum; and

16 WHEREAS, as a boy growing up on the world's famous Beale
17 Street, he was influenced by the black culture and heritage that
18 made up the street and the music that was a result of the
19 day-to-day existence of the individuals that lived there. This
20 true son of Beale Street, and the student of the Blues, was a
21 vocalist at the Elk's "Beale Street Blues Game," better known as
22 The Blues Bowl, under the leadership of Lt. George W. Lee.
23 Gatemouth became Exalted Ruler of the Elk's I.B.B.O.P. and Mr.
24 Beale Street in 1939. He gained national fame as being a survivor
25 of the great Natchez Fire in 1940. Some of his fondest memories
26 were of Miss Dora Todd, teacher at Booker T. Washington High
27 School, and its legendary marching band, and the football games

28 between Booker T. Washington High School and Manansas High School
29 on the north side of town; and

30 WHEREAS, Gatemouth Moore recorded his first record in 1941,
31 and wrote such songs as "*Somebody's Got To Go*," "*I Ain't Mad at*
32 *You Pretty Baby*," and "*Did You Ever Love A Woman?*", which was
33 later recorded by B.B. King and Rufus Thomas, to name only a few.
34 He was the first of many firsts, having been the first blues
35 singer to sing at Carnegie Hall; the first blues singer to travel
36 with W.C. Handy to New York City; the first blues singer to sing
37 at the segregated Peabody Hotel's Roof of Garden; and the first
38 blues singer to sing at many halls around the country, such as The
39 Apollo in New York, The Regal in Chicago, the Chicago Civic
40 Center, The Music Hall in Detroit, the Howard Theatre in
41 Washington, D.C., and The Royal in Baltimore Maryland; and

42 WHEREAS, while performing at the Club Delisa in Chicago in
43 1949, he was converted while singing "Shine On Me." Gatemouth
44 became a preacher of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and served his
45 first church on Florida and Colorado Street. He was ordained by
46 the late Bishop E.V. McEwen of C.O.G.I.C. over WDIA Radio Station,
47 where he was the first religious D.J.; and

48 WHEREAS, Arnold Dwight "Gatemouth" Moore - Preacher, Pastor,
49 Blues Singer, Songwriter and Music Heritage Pioneer, is listed in
50 Who's Who in Blues in America; and

51 WHEREAS, with dazzling perseverance, Arnold Dwight
52 "Gatemouth" Moore again and again has broken new ground, remaining
53 at the forefront as one of Mississippi's greatest pioneers, and it
54 is with pride that we recognize the legacy of this artist and
55 preacher who brings honor to his congregation, his community and
56 to the State of Mississippi:

57 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
58 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
59 we do here commend the career of Music Heritage Pioneer Reverend
60 Arnold Dwight "Gatemouth" Moore, Pastor of Lintonia A.M.E. Church

61 in Yazoo City, Mississippi, and extend to him and his family the
62 best wishes of the Legislature.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
64 Reverend Moore and his family and be made available to the Capitol
65 Press Corps.