

By: Senator(s) Thomas, Jordan, Albritton,  
Butler, Chaney, Clarke, Frazier, Jackson  
(11th), Jackson (32nd)

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.