

By: Senator(s) Michel, Burton, Carmichael,
Clarke, Dawkins, Frazier, Jackson (15th),
Jackson (11th), King, Lee (47th), Morgan

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 20

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CAREER OF RENOWNED GOSPEL ARTIST
2 AND GRADUATE OF MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND VIRGINIA LEIGH
3 (GINNY) OWENS AND WELCOMING HER TO MISSISSIPPI ON THE OCCASION OF
4 "GINNY OWENS' HOMECOMING DAY".

5 WHEREAS, April 7, 2004, has been designated "Ginny Owens'
6 Homecoming Day" at the Mississippi School for the Blind in
7 Jackson, Mississippi; and

8 WHEREAS, Virginia Leigh (Ginny) Owens grew up as the oldest
9 of two children in Jackson, Mississippi, started playing the piano
10 when she was two years old, and lost her sight to a congenital eye
11 disease at that time; but for her, music was her hobby, passion
12 and her way of expressing the thoughts and feelings that she could
13 not articulate; and

14 WHEREAS, Ginny's academic background in high school and
15 college demonstrated her dedication to excellence and her interest
16 in music: Graduated Mississippi School for the Blind, May 1993,
17 Valedictorian; graduated in Top 10 of Senior Class at Murrah High
18 School; Recipient of Annie Denman Citizenship Award (Mississippi
19 Council of the Blind), 1992; selected as one of *The*
20 *Clarion-Ledger's* Class All-Star Senior Merit Winners; graduated
21 Belmont University, Nashville, Tennessee, May 1997, with a
22 Bachelor of Music Degree (Cum Laude); and named to Who's Who in
23 American Universities and Colleges, 1996-1997; and

24 WHEREAS, when Ginny majored in music at Belmont University in
25 Nashville, she had every intention of teaching music after
26 graduation, but instead she was discovered by a record label, and
27 has spent the past several years traveling and performing for
28 adoring fans; and

29 WHEREAS, her professional achievements to date follow:

30 First female artist signed to Rocketown Records and sales of
31 more than 500,000 units worldwide; tours include appearances with
32 Michael W. Smith, Chris Rice, Rebecca St. James, Derek Webb and
33 Watermark; her radio singles are: #1 "Free" - Adult Contemporary;
34 #1 "If You Want Me To" - Adult Contemporary; #1 "I Am Nothing" -
35 Inspirational; and #3 "I Am" - Adult Contemporary; she was the
36 featured performer on 2000 Dove Awards live telecast, the featured
37 performer Lilith Fair (Nashville, Tennessee), the featured
38 performer Sundance Film Festival and was interviewed twice on
39 National Public Radio by popular host Liane Hansen; she has
40 performances and interviews on nationally televised talk shows
41 "Live with Regis and Kathie Lee" and the "Ainsley Harriott Show"
42 and an appearance on the CNN "Worldbeat" music program; she was
43 the Microsoft MSN "Live" chat - featured artist on Website Chat;
44 and

45 WHEREAS, Ginny's awards include the 2001 Dove Award winner
46 for Inspirational Song of the Year for "Blessed"; the 2000 Dove
47 Award winner for New Artist of the Year; and the 2000 Dove Award
48 winner for Best Enhanced CD; and

49 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the
50 accomplishments of this young Mississippi artist who has brought
51 honor to her school, her community and to the State of
52 Mississippi:

53 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
54 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the career of renown gospel
55 artist and graduate of Mississippi School for the Blind, Virginia
56 Leigh (Ginny) Owens, and extend to her the best wishes of the
57 Mississippi Senate as we welcome her on the occasion of "Ginny
58 Owens' Homecoming Day" on April 7, 2004.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
60 Ginny Owens and her family, the Superintendent of the Mississippi

61 School for the Blind and be made available to the Capitol Press
62 Corps.