

By: Senator(s) Thomas

To: Rules

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 13

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE OF LEGENDARY BLUESMAN AND  
2 MUSIC HERITAGE PIONEER, REVEREND ARNOLD DWIGHT "GATEMOUTH" MOORE,  
3 AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE SENATE.

4 WHEREAS, Blues Artist Arnold Dwight "Gatemouth" Moore, who  
5 honed his blues talents in Kansas City and Memphis but later  
6 walked away from his career to preach the Gospel, died on May 19,  
7 2004, in Yazoo City, Mississippi, at 90 years of age; and

8 WHEREAS, he was known for several blues hits, among them,  
9 "Did you Ever Love a Woman?", a song later recorded by B.B. King  
10 and Rufus Thomas; and

11 WHEREAS, at the time of his death, Moore was Pastor of the  
12 Lintonia A.M.E. Church in Yazoo City. Survivors include his wife,  
13 Walterine C. Moore; and

14 WHEREAS, he was born on November 8, 1913, in Topeka, Kansas.  
15 Moore said he earned his nickname because of his loud singing and  
16 speaking voice. His family moved to Memphis, where he graduated  
17 from Booker T. Washington High School in 1938; and

18 WHEREAS, at the age of 16, Moore went to Kansas City, where  
19 he sang with the bands of Bennie Moten, Tommy Douglas and Walter  
20 Barnes. Moore was with Walter Barnes and his orchestra for a  
21 performance in Natchez in April 1940 and survived the fire which  
22 broke out at the Rhythm Night Club. Barnes and other members of  
23 the orchestra died in the fire; and

24 WHEREAS, he returned to Kansas City in 1941, where he  
25 recorded his first record, writing and performing "Somebody's Got  
26 To Go" and "I Ain't Mad At You Pretty Baby"; and

27           WHEREAS, Chuck Haddox, with the University of Missouri in  
28 Kansas City, said Moore was performing in 1949 in Chicago when he  
29 left the stage and "never returned to secular music." Moore, in  
30 interviews, said he had undergone a religious conversion and sang  
31 only Gospel songs thereafter. Later that year, Moore was ordained  
32 at the First Church of Deliverance in Chicago; and

33           WHEREAS, he was also featured in Martin Scorsese's PBS Blues  
34 series, singing that song as he strolled down the Memphis street.  
35 In recent years, Moore occasionally played festivals; and

36           WHEREAS, with dazzling perseverance, Arnold Dwight  
37 "Gatemouth" Moore again and again broke new ground, remaining at  
38 the forefront as one of Mississippi's greatest pioneers, and it is  
39 with sadness that we note the passing of this artist and preacher  
40 who brought inspiration to his congregation, his community and to  
41 the State of Mississippi:

42           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
43 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the life of Bluesman and  
44 Music Heritage Pioneer Reverend Arnold Dwight "Gatemouth" Moore,  
45 Pastor of Lintonia A.M.E. Church in Yazoo City, Mississippi, and  
46 express to his surviving wife, Walterine C. Moore, and his family  
47 the sympathy of the Senate on his passing.

48           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
49 Walterine C. Moore and be made available to the Capitol Press  
50 Corps.