

By: Senator(s) Thomas,
Albritton, Butler, Carmichael,
Chaney, Clarke, Doxey, Flowers,
Harden, Hyde-Smith, Jackson
(15th), Jackson (11th), Jordan,
Lee (35th), Little, Morgan,
Pickering, Ross, Thames, Walls,
Williamson

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.