

By: Representative Reynolds

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 5

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JAZZ
2 ODYSSEY, MOSE ALLISON, AND ACKNOWLEDGING HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
3 STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, jazz "bluesician" and songwriter, Mose Allison, born
5 in the Mississippi Delta on his grandfather's farm near the
6 Village of Tippo, was destined for greatness when the child
7 prodigy in him began to shine at age five upon discovering he
8 could play the piano by ear; and

9 WHEREAS, it was during his formative high school years that
10 Mose, who played trumpet in the marching and dance band, began
11 writing his own music after listening to the music of Louis
12 Armstrong, Fats Waller, Duke Ellington, Louis Jordan, and his
13 prime inspiration, Nat King Cole; and

14 WHEREAS, after a year at the University of Mississippi, he
15 went into the Army in 1946, playing in the Army Band in Colorado
16 Springs and performing with accomplished musicians from around the
17 country in small groups at NCO and Officer's Clubs; and

18 WHEREAS, returning to "Ole Miss" he joined the dance band as
19 arranger, piano and trumpet player, and after a year on the road,
20 Mose married, returned to college at Louisiana State University
21 and graduated in 1952 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English
22 and Philosophy; and

23 WHEREAS, with dazzling perseverance, Mose Allison, whose
24 music is sought after internationally, particularly in England,
25 continues to blaze new trails into the uncharted territories of
26 the musical industry, by exhibiting an insurmountable dedication
27 to his musical career; and

28 WHEREAS, now 77 years of age, Mr. Allison continues touring
29 extensively, averaging over 125 concerts per year around the
30 world, giving him rightful claim to the title of "Jazz Odyssey,"
31 which is most befitting, as he has long established himself on the
32 world's stage; and

33 WHEREAS, despite having an illustrious career and appearing
34 in some of the world's most eminent venues, Mose Allison is a
35 proud ambassador of his home state, and Mississippi is even
36 prouder of the achievements of its native son; and

37 WHEREAS, now at the peak of his performing career, Mose
38 resides on Long Island with his wife, Audre, where they raised
39 four children: Alissa, an attorney; John, a telecommunication
40 specialist; Janine, a psychiatrist; and Amy Allison, also a
41 successful and respected singer songwriter in New York with her
42 own group; and

43 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the
44 legendary, Mr. Allison, who has served with distinction as an
45 ambassador for the State of Mississippi, bringing honor to his
46 home community, region and state:

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
48 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
49 commend the career of a true jazz odyssey, Mose Allison, and
50 extend to him our best wishes for success in all his future
51 endeavors.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
53 furnished to Mose Allison and to the members of the Capitol Press
54 Corps.