

By: Representative Ellis

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 29

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING MR. JAMES MONROE JOHNSON FOR HIS
2 OUTSTANDING COMPOSITION OF AN ORIGINAL POEM ENTITLED, "I AM A
3 MISSISSIPPIAN."

4 WHEREAS, Mr. James Monroe Johnson of Starkville, Mississippi,
5 composed an extraordinary original poem entitled "I Am a
6 Mississippian," which captures the essence and pride of the many
7 wonderful aspects of this great state; and

8 WHEREAS, copyrighted August 6, 2004, "I Am a Mississippian"
9 reads as follows:

10 "I am a Mississippian, born and bred
11 Cotton picked and corn-fed
12 Been 'round the world but back again
13 Chevrolet driven and democratic led
14 Most of my kinfolk
15 All up and gone
16 From the cotton fields and hay patches
17 That we used to call home
18 Everybody's talking about us
19 Being on the bottom
20 'Bout how we are always last
21 And forever forgotten
22 Many folk from here are ashamed
23 'Cause this where they're from
24 We all share shame for our past
25 And the obstacles we've overcome
26 We got B.B. King
27 The master of them blues

28 Then there's Elvis
29 And his blue suede shoes
30 Howling Wolf and Muddy Waters
31 And Little Milton too
32 Charley Pride and Faith Hill
33 Both country and blues
34 I'm tired of people asking me
35 Why I always come back
36 I never hesitate to tell them
37 This is where ya'll at
38 Mississippi is really unique
39 Our flowers grow so green
40 Our trees so naturally
41 Our hogs so lean
42 Our chickens so meaty
43 Our cows so fat
44 Our catfish so fishy
45 Our colored folk so black
46 Mississippi hasn't always been
47 The most favorite place to be
48 Nor ideal to visit
49 If you looked like me
50 But, I never hesitated
51 To really speak my mind
52 When people asked me where I'm from
53 I'd tell them every time
54 I'm from a small town
55 In the middle of a southern state
56 Not too many miles south of Memphis
57 Where fish still eat bait
58 Where waters are still muddied
59 And people go without shoes
60 Where chickens still lay eggs

61 And folk still grow food
62 Next to the heart of Dixie
63 Back to where I really belong
64 Yes, I am still a Mississippian
65 Because this is my home!"

66 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
67 recognize outstanding and creative masters of literary works, such
68 as Mr. James Monroe Johnson, who skillfully displays many of the
69 brilliant aspects of this great state:

70 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
71 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
72 commend Mr. James Monroe Johnson on his original work of
73 authorship for the poem entitled "I Am a Mississippian" and wish
74 him great success in all his future endeavors.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
76 furnished to Mr. James Monroe Johnson and members of the Capitol
77 Press Corps.