

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Dawkins, Williamson,
Tollison, Jordan, Walls, Jackson (11th),
Jackson (32nd), Simmons, Turner, Thomas,
Butler, Albritton, Brown, Browning, Burton,
Clarke, Dearing, Doxey, Frazier, Gollott,
Kirby, Morgan

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 555

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND ARTISTIC
2 CONTRIBUTIONS OF SOUL PIONEER WILSON PICKETT, AND EXTENDING THE
3 SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

4 WHEREAS, amazing soul pioneer Wilson Pickett, whose fiery
5 hits "Mustang Sally" and "In The Midnight Hour" defined the music
6 of a generation and appealed to all races, passed away on
7 Thursday, January 19, 2006; and

8 WHEREAS, Wilson Pickett, known as the "Wicked Pickett,"
9 became a star with his soulful hits in the 1960s. "In the
10 Midnight Hour" made the Top 25 on the Billboard Pop Charts in
11 1965, and "Mustang Sally" did the same the following year; and

12 WHEREAS, "a fellow Detroiter, Wilson Pickett was one of the
13 greatest soul singers of all time," Aretha Franklin said in a
14 statement. "He will absolutely be missed"; and

15 WHEREAS, Pickett was defined by his raspy voice and
16 passionate delivery. Alabama-born Pickett got his start singing
17 gospel music in church; and

18 WHEREAS, after moving to Detroit, Michigan, as a teen, he
19 joined the group the Falcons, which scored the hit "I Found a
20 Love" with Pickett on lead vocals in 1962; and

21 WHEREAS, in 1965, he linked with legendary soul producer
22 Jerry Wexler at the equally legendary soul label Stax Records in
23 Memphis, Tennessee, and recorded one of his greatest hits "In the
24 Midnight Hour" for Atlantic Records; and

25 WHEREAS, a string of hits followed, including "634-5789,"
26 "Funky Broadway," "Mustang Sally," "Land of 1000 Dances," "99-1/2
27 Won't Do," "Everybody Needs Somebody," "Bonefootin'," "She's

28 Looking Good," "Don't Knock my Love" and many more. His sensuous
29 soul was in sharp contrast to the genteel soul songs of his
30 Detroit counterparts at Motown Records; and

31 WHEREAS, Pickett was featured in a 2002 documentary on soul
32 greats, "Only the Strong Survive." He wrote his own songs; he was
33 very musically adept, and many of his songs have been covered by
34 other artists; and

35 WHEREAS, as Pickett entered a new decade, he had less success
36 on the charts, but still had a few more hits, including the song
37 "Don't Let the Green Grass Fool You." Like all these great
38 legends of R&B, when disco came in, it really impacted his career,
39 although he continued to be incredibly popular in Europe, every
40 summer touring Europe to incredible crowds; and

41 WHEREAS, besides his induction into the Music Hall of Fame in
42 1991, he was also given the Pioneer Award by the Rhythm and Blues
43 Foundation two years later. "If I wasn't in show business I don't
44 know what I would have been, a wanderer or something, you know?"
45 Pickett said in a 2001 interview. "But God blessed me with the
46 talent and the chance. I knocked on enough doors, and this is
47 what I can give myself credit for"; and

48 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of this
49 musical icon who cast a long shadow and served as a role model for
50 all musicians:

51 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
52 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
53 we do hereby commend the life and artistic contributions of soul
54 pioneer Wilson Pickett and extend to his surviving family the
55 sympathy of the Legislature on his passing.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
57 the surviving family of Wilson Pickett and be made available to
58 the Capitol Press Corps.