

By: Representative Scott

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 8

1 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE, CAREER,
2 MUSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND LEGACY OF MICHAEL
3 JOSEPH JACKSON, "THE KING OF POP," AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY
4 TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

5 WHEREAS, occasionally, into our lives, there comes a talent
6 so rare and so great that the performer makes this very difficult
7 art, the art of creating music capable of moving one's very soul,
8 preserving our history and building bridges between our different
9 cultures, seem naturally easy and effortless as evidenced by the
10 life, career and contributions to the musical industry by one
11 individual duly acclaimed as the "King of Pop," Michael Joseph
12 Jackson; and

13 WHEREAS, on Thursday, June 25, 2009, the world lost an
14 international musical icon and prodigy in Michael Jackson, born
15 August 29, 1958, in Gary, Indiana, to the working-class family of
16 Joseph Walter "Joe" Jackson and Katherine Esther Jackson, as he
17 departed this earthly life at the age of 50 to enter into eternal
18 rest, bringing great sorrow and loss to his family, friends and
19 global fan base; and

20 WHEREAS, an American recording artist, entertainer and
21 businessman, he made his debut on the professional music scene in
22 1968 as a member of The Jackson 5, before beginning his solo
23 career in 1971 while still a member of the group; and

24 WHEREAS, in a skyrocketing rise to stardom, Jackson became a
25 dominant figure in popular music in the early 1980s, and chartered
26 a course in history as the first African-American entertainer to
27 amass a strong crossover following on MTV, transforming the music
28 video from a promotional tool into an art form, helping to bring



29 the relatively new channel to fame with the popularity of his
30 music videos of "Beat It," "Billie Jean" and "Thriller" airing on
31 the network; and

32 WHEREAS, with stage performances and music videos, Jackson
33 popularized a number of physically complicated dance techniques,
34 such as the robot and the moonwalk, and coupled with his
35 distinctive musical sound and vocal style, influenced many hip
36 hop, pop and contemporary R&B artists across several generations,
37 ethnicities and cultures; and

38 WHEREAS, raised as a Jehovah's Witness by his devout mother,
39 who instilled in all of her children the traditional values of
40 love and concern premised on the tenets of Matthew 25:40, which
41 reads in part, "Inasmuch as ye have done [it] unto one of the
42 least of these my brethren, ye have done [it] unto me," Jackson
43 donated and raised millions of dollars for beneficial causes
44 through his foundations, charity singles and support of 39
45 charities; and

46 WHEREAS, Jackson showed musical talent early in his life, a
47 talent upon which his musical genius and success were predicated,
48 serving as the driving force to the success of his career with The
49 Jackson 5 and as a solo artist with such notable songs as: "Big
50 Boy"; the group's chart-record-setting first four singles, "I Want
51 You Back," "ABC," "The Love You Save" and "I'll Be There," which
52 all peaked at number one on the Billboard Hot 100; and a remake of
53 Bobby Day's "Rockin' Robin"; and

54 WHEREAS, beyond its record-breaking success among fans,
55 Jackson's 1982 *Thriller* album instituted multiple changes within
56 the music industry, earning him the distinction by some critics as
57 "a one-man rescue team for the music business" by accomplishing
58 the following: raising the importance of albums, while
59 challenging notions about how many prospective hits an album
60 should contain; restoring to the industry a sense of confidence in
61 its ability to release high-level artistry during a time when



62 profits had been sinking; helping to bring MTV into its heyday,
63 even as MTV helped fuel *Thriller's* success; and paving the way for
64 other highly profitable acts such as Prince; and

65 WHEREAS, referred to as the "King of Pop" in subsequent
66 years, *Thriller* remains the world's best-selling album of all
67 time, that at its 25th anniversary retained important influence
68 over the music industry, artists and American culture, and four of
69 his other solo studio albums are among the world's best-selling
70 records: *Off the Wall*, *Bad*, *Dangerous* and *HIStory*; and

71 WHEREAS, having donated millions of dollars and countless
72 hours to such causes as Brotman Medical Center, HIV/AIDS
73 awareness, drug and alcohol treatment, hospitals, orphanages,
74 underprivileged children, the United Negro College Fund, Heal the
75 World Foundation, which he founded, Warchild, the Nelson Mandela
76 Children's Fund, the Red Cross and UNESCO, Michael Jackson can be
77 proclaimed as the first entertainer and public figure to serve as
78 a symbol of international humanitarianism and philanthropy,
79 charting the course for many other notables such as Princess
80 Diana, George Clooney and Bono to engage in humanitarian aid and
81 charitable and philanthropic gifting; and

82 WHEREAS, Jackson co-wrote the charity single, "We Are the
83 World," with Lionel Richie, that was released worldwide to aid the
84 poor in Africa and the United States, that became the
85 international anthem of unification which called individuals to
86 action and service, as the project intricately wove the threaded
87 talents of 39 music celebrities to perform on the record, allowing
88 it to become one of the best-selling singles of all time, with
89 nearly 20 million copies sold and millions of dollars donated to
90 famine relief; and

91 WHEREAS, his legacy and influence have infallibly left an
92 indelible imprint on the lives of numerous musicians who patterned
93 their careers from the mold shaped by Jackson, as well as having a



94 lasting effect on the millions who were benefactors of his
95 generous and incessant benevolence; and

96 WHEREAS, inducted into the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1984,
97 Michael Jackson's notable impact on music and culture throughout
98 the world broke down racial barriers, transformed the art of the
99 music video and paved the way for modern pop music in his own
100 country, as his work, distinctive musical sound and vocal style
101 have influenced hip hop, pop and R&B artists; and

102 WHEREAS, he had an "unparalleled" level of worldwide
103 influence over the younger generation through his musical and
104 humanitarian contributions, and throughout his career he received
105 numerous honors and awards, including: the World Music Awards'
106 Best-Selling Pop Male Artist of the Millennium; the American Music
107 Award's Artist of the Century Award; the Bambi Pop Artist of the
108 Millennium Award; one of the few artists to have been inducted
109 twice into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, once as a member of The
110 Jackson 5 in 1997 and later as a solo artist in 2001; a 2002
111 Songwriters Hall of Fame inductee; multiple Guinness World Records
112 (eight in 2006 alone); 13 Grammy Awards; 13 number one singles in
113 his solo career, more than any other male artist in the Hot 100
114 era; and the sale of more than 750 million records worldwide; and

115 WHEREAS, characterized as "an unstoppable juggernaut,
116 possessed of all the tools to dominate the charts seemingly at
117 will: an instantly identifiable voice, eye-popping dance moves,
118 stunning musical versatility and loads of sheer star power," he
119 was instantly declared as "the hottest single phenomenon since
120 Elvis Presley"; and

121 WHEREAS, though his physical presence shall never again grace
122 the world's stages in jubilant rendition of song and dance that
123 once fell upon our perceptive sensory, the legacy of a true legend
124 in his own right and of our time, shall never cease to fall silent
125 upon the hearts and memories of family, friends and fans, as he
126 now takes his place in the studios of timeless eternity; and



127 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
128 commemorate the life of those whose artistry has garnered praise
129 from all of their contemporaries and millions of fans worldwide
130 like Michael Jackson, whose unmatched caliber and superstardom can
131 only be rivaled by his many extraordinary accomplishments and
132 contributions to our society:

133 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
134 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
135 honor and commemorate the life, career, musical accomplishments,
136 contributions and legacy of Michael Joseph Jackson, "The King of
137 Pop," and express deepest sympathy to his family, friends and fans
138 upon his passing.

139 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
140 furnished to Sony Music to be forwarded to the family of Michael
141 Jackson and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

