

By: Representative Holland

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 66

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE STELLAR MUSIC CAREER AND
2 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MISSISSIPPI'S PAUL THORN, ACKNOWLEDGING HIS
3 CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, AND DECLARING TUESDAY,
4 MARCH 27, 2018, AS PAUL THORN DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL.

5 WHEREAS, from an adolescent teen fascinated with the
6 embellished tales of his Uncle Merle about life in California's
7 fast lane, to a six-year relationship with Uncle Sam as a member
8 of the National Guard and furniture manufacturing employee, to
9 boxing professionally as a top 10 ranked middle-weight and
10 tackling a six-round bout with Roberto "Hands of Stone" Duran, to
11 being discovered in a Tupelo pizzeria, Paul Thorn's life has been
12 one exciting roller coaster ride that has landed him upon some of
13 the world's largest stages in an epic tale of a legendary musical
14 icon in the making; and

15 WHEREAS, from that fateful day inside Vanelli's Pizza Parlor
16 in 1997, when Miles Copeland signed him to A&M Records to the
17 present day, the career of Paul Thorn has been a whirlwind of
18 personal reflection and soulfully crafted harmonious musicality
19 that has garnered him much success with a throng of fans; and



20 WHEREAS, an accomplished painter, born Paul Wayne Thorn on
21 July 13, 1964, in Kenosha, Wisconsin, but raised in Tupelo,
22 Mississippi, since infancy, the son of Wayne Thorn, a
23 proselytizing Pentecostal bishop, Paul's strict religious
24 childhood clashed with his desire for a more secular and worldly
25 lifestyle, a choice that would result in his being disavowed by
26 the church and out on his own at age 18 to begin the adulthood
27 experience, which ultimately landed him on the road to stardom
28 some 15 years later at the age of 33; and

29 WHEREAS, with dazzling perseverance, Mr. Thorn, who performed
30 his first concert only 30 days after signing to A&M Records to
31 open for Sting before a crowd of 14,000 cheering music lovers, has
32 released 16 albums to his credit, and continues to blaze new
33 trails into the uncharted territories of the musical industry by
34 exhibiting an insurmountable dedication to his musical proficiency
35 which has made him a prominent figure within the southern rock,
36 country, Americana and blues genres for more than two decades; and

37 WHEREAS, along with his band, many of whom have been with him
38 since the onset of his musical career, Paul continues touring
39 extensively as he has long established himself in the majestic
40 palaces of the world's stage as a musical icon, lifting the
41 unifying gift of music from the confines of the American South and
42 delivering it to a worldwide audience; and

43 WHEREAS, from his first album "Hammer and Nail," a titled
44 inspired by his boxing bout with Duran, to "Pimps and Preachers,"



45 an homage to the two most influential men in his life, his father
46 (the preacher) and his uncle (the pimp), to the most recent album,
47 "Don't Let the Devil Ride," scheduled for a March 23 release, Paul
48 has more than 400,000 sales to his career, with multiple albums
49 debuting on the Billboard Top 100 Albums Chart, including the 2014
50 release of "Too Blessed to Be Stressed," which charted in the Top
51 5 on the AMA radio chart and placed 15th on the organization's
52 end-of-year Top 100 list; and

53 WHEREAS, despite having an illustrious career and appearing
54 in some of the country's most preeminent venues, Paul is a proud
55 ambassador of his home state, and Mississippi is even prouder of
56 this native son, whose career accomplishments reinforce and
57 solidify the well-known fact and properly bestowed title upon the
58 state as "the birthplace of America's music"; and

59 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
60 recognize the star power of Mr. Thorn, who has served with
61 distinction as an ambassador for the State of Mississippi,
62 bringing great honor to the Tupelo community and the entire state:

63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
64 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
65 commend the stellar music career and accomplishments of
66 Mississippi's Paul Thorn, declare Tuesday, March 27, 2018, as Paul
67 Thorn Day at the State Capitol, and extend best wishes for
68 continued success in all of his future endeavors.



69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
70 furnished to Paul Thorn and to the members of the Capitol Press
71 Corps.

