

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Blount, Michel,
Norwood, Frazier, Chassaniol, Barnett,
Fillingane, Jackson (11th), Jackson (32nd),
Simmons (13th)

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 16

1 A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE RECOGNITION OF THE MISSISSIPPI
2 SENATE TO VERSATILE MUSICIAN NELLIE MCINNIS AS THE RECIPIENT OF
3 THE 2021 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MUSIC.

4 WHEREAS, the Governor's Arts Awards Program has announced its
5 2021 recipients, which includes Nellie McInnis for Excellence in
6 Music; and

7 WHEREAS, established in 1988, Governor's Arts Awards are
8 given to individuals and organizations to recognize outstanding
9 work in the artistic disciplines, as well as arts-based community
10 development and arts patronage in Mississippi. The awards are
11 presented in partnership with the Governor's Office and signify
12 the important relationship between government and the arts; and

13 WHEREAS, known to her fans as "Nellie Mack," Nellie McInnis
14 grew up in the capital city with a strong love for music. Though
15 she was steered toward the piano, Nellie Mack rejected gender
16 stereotypes and pursued the bass guitar; and

17 WHEREAS, while studying music at Jackson State University,
18 she formed the group Past, Present and Future with Rhonda Richmond



19 and future Grammy winner and Governor's Arts Award recipient
20 Cassandra Fowlkes Wilson; and

21 WHEREAS, McInnis' skill on the electric bass was quickly
22 noticed, and she took her high-energy performing style to
23 audiences across the state, the nation and as far as Finland,
24 Belgium, and Norway. She has shared the stage with some of the
25 greatest musicians of the modern era, including Jazz Legend Ellis
26 Marsalis, R&B Hitmakers The Bar-Kays, Bluesman Bobby Bland,
27 Governor's Arts Award recipient Dorothy Moore, Clark Terry and the
28 late Jazz Giant Dizzy Gillespie; and

29 WHEREAS, in recent years, McInnis has settled back in her
30 hometown of Jackson to be close to family. She formed her popular
31 live band "The Nellie Mack Project" and plays regularly at her
32 church; and

33 WHEREAS, McInnis remains a highly sought-after live performer
34 but is also committed to music education. She received a Master's
35 of Music Education from Jackson State University and dedicates
36 time to teaching young people about music as a member of the
37 Mississippi Arts Commission's Artist Roster; and

38 WHEREAS, before the quarantine in 2020 brought live
39 performances to a near standstill, Nellie Mack played regularly at
40 festivals and concerts around the region. Her hope, and that of
41 her fans, is that Nellie Mack will be bringing her stellar
42 musicianship and show-stopping performances back to audiences in
43 the very near future; and



44 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we pay tribute and
45 express appreciation for the talent of a world-class musician who
46 has made Mississippi a better place and exemplifies the musical
47 traditions of our great state:

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
49 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby extend the recognition of the
50 Mississippi Senate to Nellie McInnis, the recipient of the 2021
51 Governor's Arts Award for Excellence in Music, and extend our
52 congratulations to this mighty musician on this auspicious
53 occasion.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
55 Nellie McInnis as part of the Governor's Arts Awards presentation,
56 and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

