

By: Representative Paden

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 75

1 A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING AND HONORING THE IMPECCABLE  
 2 ARTISTRY, CRAFTSMANSHIP, TALENT AND IMPACTFUL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE  
 3 ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY OF MR. W.C. HANDY, UPON HIS INDUCTION INTO  
 4 THE 2022 CLASS OF THE MISSISSIPPI ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT EXPERIENCE  
 5 HALL OF FAME.

6 WHEREAS, given the rich history of successes of the great  
 7 Magnolia State's native sons and daughters, who have become  
 8 shining ambassadors of the state's wealth of artistic, musical,  
 9 literary and silver-screen talents, very little mystery remains to  
 10 the validity that Mississippi is a place where legends are born  
 11 and dreams become reality; and

12 WHEREAS, in 2001, the Mississippi Legislature, by virtue of  
 13 Senate Bill No. 2666, provided for the creation of an educational,  
 14 entertaining and interactive facility in Meridian, which  
 15 materialized in the establishment of the Mississippi Arts +  
 16 Entertainment Experience (The MAX), which tells the stories of all  
 17 of Mississippi's arts and entertainment icons; and

18 WHEREAS, in homage to the enduring impact of the state's  
 19 creative legacy, The MAX initiated the Mississippi Hall of Fame in



20 January 2017, with an inaugural class of 18 inductees, and in  
21 keeping with the tradition of honoring the influential men and  
22 women who trace their roots to Mississippi and represent the best  
23 of Mississippi's artistic talents, The MAX has deemed it fitting  
24 to induct Mr. W.C. Handy, a Clarksdale resident and blues legend,  
25 into the 2022 Class of the Mississippi Arts + Entertainment  
26 Experience Hall of Fame; and

27 WHEREAS, born in Florence, Alabama, the son of a minister,  
28 Mr. Handy also had ties to Clarksdale, and has garnered the title  
29 amongst music experts as "the Father of the Blues"; and

30 WHEREAS, having lived from 1873 to 1958, Handy's name does  
31 not strike a chord of notable popularity in households today  
32 because his major achievements, as a composer and musician, came  
33 in the early 20th century; and

34 WHEREAS, influenced by African-American folk music  
35 traditions, Handy settled in Clarksdale, and immersed himself in a  
36 local variation of the blues, and credited as having written and  
37 published the first commercially successful blues song, "Memphis  
38 Blues," and is celebrated at Alabama's annual W.C. Handy Music  
39 Festival; and

40 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
41 honor the diverse mix of creative legends from across the State of  
42 Mississippi of Mr. W.C. Handy's intrinsic talent, and whose  
43 contributions to the entertainment industry bestow great pride and  
44 esteem upon all Mississippians:



45           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
46 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
47 acknowledge and honor the impeccable artistry, craftsmanship,  
48 talent and impactful contributions to the entertainment industry  
49 of Mr. W.C. Handy, upon his induction into the 2022 Class of  
50 Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience Hall of Fame on  
51 December 15, 2022.

52           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
53 furnished to The MAX and to the members of the Capitol Press  
54 Corps.

