

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Thomas, Barnett,
Butler (38th), Jackson (11th), Simmons (13th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 536

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE RECOGNITION OF THE
2 MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE TO ICONIC FILM PRODUCER LAWRENCE "LARRY"
3 GORDON AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2022 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARD FOR
4 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN MOTION PICTURES AND TELEVISION.

5 WHEREAS, the Governor's Arts Awards Program has announced its
6 2022 recipients, which include iconic Motion Picture Producer
7 Lawrence "Larry" Gordon for Lifetime Achievement in Motion
8 Pictures and Television; and

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

15 WHEREAS, Larry Gordon has been one of the entertainment
16 industry's most prolific and successful producers and executives
17 in a career spanning six decades. Born in Yazoo City and raised
18 in Belzoni, Larry Gordon maintains ties to his Delta hometown
19 though he has lived and worked in Los Angeles for more than half a



20 century. After graduating from Tulane and completing one year of
21 law school at Ole Miss, Gordon headed west in the 1960s seeking
22 Hollywood dreams. Working as a driver and assistant at Four Star
23 Television with famed Producer Aaron Spelling, Gordon rose to
24 become a Writer and Associate Producer. He later served as Senior
25 Vice President of Screen Gems television where he helped develop
26 popular television films and series, including *Brian's Song*, *QB7*,
27 and *Bewitched*; and

28 WHEREAS, Gordon went on to form Lawrence Gordon Productions,
29 where through the years he produced many iconic films, including
30 cult hit *The Warriors*, the buddy action comedy *48 Hours*, starring
31 a young Eddie Murphy, and *Hooper* starring Burt Reynolds. He also
32 returned to television, working as an Executive Producer with
33 Aaron Spelling on the long-running series *Matt Houston*; and

34 WHEREAS, in 1984, Gordon became President and Chief Operating
35 Officer of Twentieth Century Fox where he oversaw some of the
36 biggest movies of the period, including *Aliens*, *Broadcast News*,
37 and the legendary animated TV series *The Simpsons*. After leaving
38 Fox, he produced a long and impressive list of feature films,
39 including *Die Hard 1* and *Die Hard 2*, *Boogie Nights*, *Predator*,
40 *Point Break*, *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider*, and the beloved baseball
41 classic *Field of Dreams*, for which he received a Best Picture
42 Oscar nomination; and

43 WHEREAS, Gordon has also achieved success on the stage. On
44 Broadway, he produced the musical *Smile*, with music by Tony,



45 Grammy, and Academy Award winner Marvin Hamlisch and book and
46 lyrics by Tony and Academy Award winner Howard Ashman.
47 Off-Broadway, Mr. Gordon was awarded the prestigious Drama Desk
48 Award for the revival of Joe Orton's *Entertaining Mr. Sloane*. He
49 is a recipient of the ShoWest Lifetime Achievement Award and the
50 Producers Guild of America's prestigious David O. Selznick
51 Lifetime Achievement Award; and

52 WHEREAS, at the age of 85, Larry Gordon is currently
53 developing several feature projects for film, television and
54 Broadway. With all his success, he has never forgotten where he
55 came from. He recently stepped up as the lead donor when his
56 hometown of Belzoni rebuilt their legendary lighted Welcome Sign;
57 and

58 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we pay tribute and
59 express appreciation for the talent of a world-class Mississippi
60 Motion Picture Producer who has made Mississippi a better place
61 and exemplifies the artistic traditions of our great state:

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
63 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
64 we do hereby extend the recognition of the Mississippi Legislature
65 to Lawrence "Larry" Gordon, the recipient of the 2022 Governor's
66 Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement in Motion Pictures and
67 Television, and extend our congratulations to this iconic Motion
68 Picture Producer on this auspicious occasion.



69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
70 Larry Gordon as part of the Governor's Arts Awards presentation
71 and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

