

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Butler (36th),
Barnett, Butler (38th), Frazier, Hopson,
Jackson (11th), Simmons (12th), Simmons
(13th), Thomas

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 539

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE RECOGNITION OF THE
2 MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE TO THE ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY JAZZ
3 FESTIVAL AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2022 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS FOR
4 ARTS IN THE COMMUNITY.

5 WHEREAS, the Governor's Arts Awards Program has announced its
6 2022 recipients, which include the Alcorn State University Jazz
7 Festival; and

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

14 WHEREAS, the Alcorn State University Jazz Festival has been a
15 popular destination for jazz fans and musicians for more than 40
16 years. Beginning in 1981, this annual event has grown into the
17 longest-running All-Jazz Festival in the region. The Alcorn State
18 University Jazz Festival has brought some of the leading lights of



19 the jazz world to central and southwest Mississippi with the focus
20 on educating and nurturing young local musicians; and

21 WHEREAS, thirty-five years ago, Dr. David Miller took the
22 helm of the festival and has overseen its exponential growth.
23 With humble beginnings as a single-day festival on the small
24 campus of Lorman, it is now a multiday event that takes place
25 mostly in nearby Vicksburg. Thousands of high school and college
26 musicians, along with band directors, working musicians, and jazz
27 fans from around the country, have made this annual free event a
28 constantly growing success; and

29 WHEREAS, every year since 1982, the National Endowment for
30 the Arts awards several NEA Jazz Masters Fellowships, which is the
31 highest honor that our nation bestows on jazz artists. Many of
32 the recipients of this prestigious award have performed at the
33 festival venue in Vicksburg. Aspiring young musicians always turn
34 out to watch and learn from some of the biggest names in the
35 business. Some have even shared the stage with these
36 professionals during the main event; and

37 WHEREAS, jazz giants who have performed and participated at
38 Alcorn State University Jazz Festival include: Branford Marsalis,
39 McCoy Tyner, Esperanza Spalding, Mulgrew Miller, Ramsey Lewis,
40 Freddie Hubbard, Louie Bellson, Roy Hargrove, Arturo Sandoval, Max
41 Roach and Chick Corea. In several instances, this is the first
42 and only time these artists have performed in Mississippi; and



43 WHEREAS, the annual festival has influenced and inspired
44 generations of aspiring student musicians who have attended and
45 performed there through the years. Many young musicians now bring
46 their own ensembles to the festival. Band directors throughout
47 the region and beyond credit the festival with bettering their
48 craft; and

49 WHEREAS, after 35 years, Dr. David Miller is approaching the
50 end of his tenure running the festival, but the Alcorn Jazz Fest
51 shows no signs of slowing down, and the plans are for it to become
52 a part of the Mississippi musical landscape for decades to come;
53 and

54 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we pay tribute and
55 express appreciation for this wonderful event that has made
56 Mississippi a better place:

57 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
58 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
59 we do hereby extend the recognition of the Mississippi Legislature
60 to the Alcorn State University Jazz Festival, the recipient of the
61 2022 Governor's Arts Award for Arts in Community, and extend our
62 congratulations to this wonderful event on this auspicious
63 occasion.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
65 the Alcorn State University Jazz Festival as part of the
66 Governor's Arts Awards presentation and made available to the
67 Capitol Press Corps.

