

By: Representative Creekmore IV

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 52

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING MR. TOMMY ALDRIDGE FOR HIS  
2 OUTSTANDING MUSICAL ARTISTRY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

3 WHEREAS, one of the greatest rock drummers of this  
4 generation, Mr. Tommy Aldridge is renowned for his virtuosity,  
5 groove, and for innovating such techniques as the use of double  
6 kick drums and playing with his bare hands; and

7 WHEREAS, born on August 15, 1950, in Jackson, Mississippi,  
8 Mr. Aldridge was raised in Pearl, Mississippi, and graduated from  
9 Pearl High School in 1968; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Aldridge taught himself to play drums in the  
11 1960s, building a kit piece by piece with money he earned by  
12 delivering newspapers and working other jobs, and he credits his  
13 unique style to learning without the benefit of a mentor or  
14 teacher; and

15 WHEREAS, in the early 1970s, Mr. Aldridge began playing  
16 original music with Alley Keith in the Florida Panhandle, and as  
17 he was inspired by drummers such as Louis Bellson and Sam  
18 Woodyard, he started using a double-bass drum setup, and became an



19 early pioneer of the hard rock double kick drum style of drumming;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, after playing for a short time with the southern  
22 rock band David and the Giants, in 1972, Mr. Aldridge auditioned  
23 for the band Black Oak Arkansas, and he made his recording debut  
24 that year with the band's *If an Angel Came to See You, Would You*  
25 *Make Her Feel at Home?* album, and he subsequently toured  
26 extensively and recorded 10 albums with the band between 1972 and  
27 1976, which surpassed a collective 1.5 million in sales; and

28 WHEREAS, from 1978 until 1981, Mr. Aldridge was with the Pat  
29 Travers Band, recording five albums over that time, and upon  
30 parting ways with Travers in 1981, he moved to London, England,  
31 and began working with Gary Moore, recording the *Dirty Fingers*  
32 album; and

33 WHEREAS, after working with Mr. Moore, and becoming friends  
34 with American guitarist Randy Rhoads, who had been in England  
35 recording with Ozzy Osbourne, Mr. Aldridge, who had toured with  
36 Mr. Osbourne's previous band, Black Sabbath, extensively in the  
37 1970s as part of Black Oak Arkansas, joined Mr. Osbourne's band  
38 in 1981, prior to the North American leg of the "Blizzard Of Ozz"  
39 tour; and

40 WHEREAS, Mr. Aldridge appeared on Mr. Osbourne's *Bark at the*  
41 *Moon* album in 1983, which sold nearly 4.8 million copies, as well  
42 as a pair of live albums, *Speak of the Devil*, which achieved



43 platinum status in the United States, and *Tribute*, before leaving  
44 the band in 1984; and

45 WHEREAS, soon after, Mr. Aldridge, along with former Ozzy  
46 Osbourne-bandmate, Rudy Sarzo, joined forces with two others to  
47 form a project called M.A.R.S. and afterwards, Mr. Aldridge and  
48 Mr. Sarzo both joined the band Whitesnake in 1987, as the band  
49 prepared to tour in support of its multi-platinum selling  
50 *Whitesnake* album; and

51 WHEREAS, Mr. Aldridge performed on the band's 1989 follow-up  
52 album, *Slip of the Tongue*, which went platinum, and following his  
53 time in Whitesnake, he played in the band Manic Eden, and during  
54 the 1990s, Mr. Aldridge recorded and toured with various acts  
55 including Motörhead, House of Lords, Yngwie Malmsteen, John Sykes  
56 and Ted Nugent; and

57 WHEREAS, widely respected in the rock community, Mr. Aldridge  
58 has been an in-demand drum clinician since the early 1980s, and  
59 much of his work involves festivals and drum clinics, discussing  
60 everything from the basic fundamentals of rock drumming, to the  
61 double bass fills and solos that made him famous; and

62 WHEREAS, Mr. Aldridge's "*Rock Drum Soloing and Double Bass*  
63 *Workout*" was his first instructional video, and he is currently  
64 working on his second instructional video and a method book on  
65 double bass drumming; and

66 WHEREAS, from 2002 until 2007, Mr. Aldridge toured with  
67 Whitesnake, and from 1997 through 2001, and again from 2007



68 through 2009, he toured with the John Sykes-fronted version of  
69 Thin Lizzy; and

70 WHEREAS, on January 25, 2013, it was announced that Mr.  
71 Aldridge had rejoined Whitesnake for the third time for the band's  
72 upcoming "Year of the Snake" tour, and he has since recorded the  
73 albums *Flesh & Blood* and *The Purple Album* with the group and  
74 remains their drummer; and

75 WHEREAS, for more than four decades, Mr. Aldridge's fiery  
76 drumming has defined hard-rock showmanship, and his signature  
77 style is a rare combination of power, technique, and feel, and in  
78 total, he has played on albums that have combined to sell nearly  
79 10,000,000 copies; and

80 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
81 recognize extraordinary Mississippi musicians, especially those  
82 such as Mr. Aldridge, whose incredible talent, hard-hitting style,  
83 flair and showmanship, continues to be a major influence in the  
84 music industry:

85 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
86 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
87 recognize and commend Mr. Tommy Aldridge for his outstanding  
88 musical artistry and accomplishments, and express sincere wishes  
89 for continued success in all of his future endeavors.

90 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
91 furnished to Mr. Tommy Aldridge, and to the members of the Capitol  
92 Press Corps.

