

By: Representative Fondren

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE,
2 LEGACY AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. JIMMY BUFFETT, LEGENDARY AMERICAN
3 SINGER-SONGWRITER AND BUSINESSMAN, AND EXPRESSING SINCEREST
4 SYMPATHY UPON HIS PASSING.

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Jimmy Buffett, a Mississippi native and beloved
6 legendary American singer-songwriter and insightful businessman,
7 who passed away at the age of 76 on September 1, 2023, thus
8 leaving an indelible mark upon the music industry; and

9 WHEREAS, born in Pascagoula, Mississippi, on Christmas Day in
10 1946, Mr. Buffett became an iconic pop star in 1977 when
11 "*Margaritaville*", which has the well-known chorus of "Wastin' away
12 in Margaritaville" cracked the Top 10 and became an international
13 singalong that has endeared unparalleled devotion for over 50
14 years of his loyal fans, who are affectionately referred to as
15 "Parrot Heads"; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Buffett built an empire that was primarily based
17 on what is known as "Gulf and Western" or "Tropical Rock" music
18 that celebrated the Gulf of Mexico life, sunshine and nightlife,



19 and he paid homage to the Magnolia State with songs such as
20 "Pascagoula Run" and "Biloxi"; and

21 WHEREAS, the success of Mr. Buffett continued when his 1992
22 collection titled *Boats, Beaches, Bars, and Ballads* became one of
23 the most successful box sets ever and his annual summer concert
24 tours with his Coral Reefer Band became major events that drew
25 thousands of Parrotheads; and

26 WHEREAS, Mr. Buffett, who was blessed to know that he had
27 insight for business, surpassed his record sales as his first
28 Margaritaville restaurant, which opened in Florida in 1987,
29 increased to a chain of 16 outlets and Harrah's Entertainment,
30 Inc., teamed up with the business genius to create the \$700
31 million Margaritaville Casino & Resort in Biloxi, Mississippi; and

32 WHEREAS, Mr. Buffett also became involved in products such as
33 Landshark Lager, the Margaritaville and Cheeseburger in Paradise
34 restaurant chains and other merchandise, and he was chairman of
35 Margaritaville Holdings in Palm Beach, Florida, and had a
36 restaurant and a casino in Vegas as well as a casino in
37 Mississippi and a hotel in Pensacola Beach, Florida, which spoke
38 to his nationwide success; and

39 WHEREAS, in addition to his musical and business feats, Mr.
40 Buffett authored number one best-sellers on both the fiction and
41 nonfiction lists of the *New York Times Book Review*, and, in 2008,
42 he was ranked by *Vanity Fair* as No. 97 on the 100 most influential
43 people in the world; and



44 WHEREAS, as one who loved his Mississippi roots, Mr. Buffett,
45 a 1969 graduate and proud supporter of the University of Southern
46 Mississippi, where he was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity,
47 has a bronze marker in the center of the Hattiesburg campus that
48 notes where he met musical collaborator Greg "Fingers" Taylor, who
49 together founded the longtime chart-topping song machine "The
50 Coral Reefer Band"; and

51 WHEREAS, Mr. Buffett also had a small but yet significant
52 bridge dedicated to him on September 15, 2015, in his birthplace
53 of Pascagoula, and this bridge that led to the Baptiste Bayou was
54 part of the genesis of his greatness as his grandfather told him
55 that the bayou led to the rest of the world and he was told "the
56 world was yours if you want it to be"; and

57 WHEREAS, his native Pascagoula also bestowed upon Mr. Buffett
58 the key to the city by Mayor Jim Blevins and the bridge over the
59 Baptiste Bayou was fittingly and officially renamed the "Jimmy
60 Buffett Bridge", and he was also honored by the Mississippi State
61 Legislature by proclaiming May 6 as "Jimmy Buffett Day", which is
62 the wedding anniversary of the Buffetts; and

63 WHEREAS, notably, Mr. Buffett also received a sign that would
64 be erected at Pascagoula's three entrances - a sign that will
65 proudly share with all who enter into Pascagoula that this is the
66 birthplace of Jimmy Buffett; and

67 WHEREAS, also, in 2020, Mr. Buffett, along with Mac McAnally
68 and the late B.B. King were inducted into the 2020 Mississippi



69 Songwriter Hall of Fame, which speaks volumes of the immense
70 talent that he had and shared with others; and

71 WHEREAS, the memories of Mr. Buffett will continue to
72 flourish in the hearts and minds of his survivors, some of whom
73 include, his wife of 46 years, Jane Buffett; daughters, Savannah
74 Jane and Sarah Delaney; son, Cameron Marley; grandson, Marley Ray;
75 his Montana sister, Laurie Buffett McGuane; their children,
76 Heather Hume, Anne Buffett McGuane, Maggie McGuane and Thomas
77 McGuane IV; his Alabama sister, Lucy Buffett and daughters, Mara
78 Delaney Buffett O'Dwyer and Melanie Leigh Buffett as well as a
79 host of other loved ones who will cherish the impact he has not
80 only had on their lives but the lives of others; and

81 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to honor the
82 life of an iconic Mississippi music legend such as Mr. Jimmy
83 Buffett who will forever be known for his optimistic view of life
84 while bringing fans to the humor and escapism in his timeless work
85 that will be cherished for generations to come:

86 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
87 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
88 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and celebrate the life, legacy
89 and contributions of Mr. Jimmy Buffett, legendary American
90 singer-songwriter and businessman, and expressing sincerest
91 sympathy upon his passing to his loved ones and friends.

92 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
93 furnished to the family of Mr. Jimmy Buffett, forwarded to the



94 Mississippi Music Hall of Fame and the National Rock & Roll Hall
95 of Fame and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

