

By: Representatives Creekmore IV, Lancaster

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 9

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MR. SAM MOSLEY OF  
2 THE FAMED BLUES BAND, MOSLEY & JOHNSON, UPON HIS LEGENDARY MUSICAL  
3 CAREER AND LASTING LEGACY IN THE MUSIC INDUSTRY.

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Sam R. Mosley, of the world renowned blues band  
5 Mosley & Johnson is being celebrated and honored for being an  
6 iconic musician, singer, guitarist, song writer, recording artist  
7 and band leader, who has brought great pride to the Magnolia State  
8 throughout his over 60-year career in the music industry; and

9 WHEREAS, a life long resident of New Albany, Mississippi, Mr.  
10 Mosley was born as the youngest child on March 30, 1946, to his  
11 parents, Joe E. and Ella Bea Mosley, and was reared in Christian  
12 love along with his sibilings, Annie, Joe, Willie, Ralph and Jamie;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, surrounded by live music that his father and uncles  
15 played when he was a child and heavily influenced by a local  
16 gospel guitarist, Reverend Leon Pinson, Sam, at the age of 10,  
17 began playing guitar in a band with his older brothers called  
18 Jamie Mosley and the Dynamics; and



19           WHEREAS, Mr. Mosley who truly loves music and whose childhood  
20 began in rural Union County in communities such as Pleasant Hill  
21 and Beaver Dam before moving to the northside of New Albany, has a  
22 natural love and passion for studying, reading and learning, and  
23 as such, he graduated from Union County Training School/B.F. Ford  
24 School in 1964, where he played football and basketball; and

25           WHEREAS, upon graduating from high school, Jamie Mosley and  
26 the Dynamics disbanded and Mr. Mosley moved, for a short while, to  
27 Peoria, Illinois, where his older brother moved during the Great  
28 Migration, and he found employment at the local meat packing plant  
29 and played with a local group called the Fabulous Hi-Fis; and

30           WHEREAS, in 1965, Mr. Mosley was drafted into the United  
31 States Army to fight in the Vietnam War, and he fought on the  
32 coast of Vietnam and ultimately served as a squad leader, and  
33 although in Vietnam, he was able to entertain his fellow soldiers  
34 by playing a guitar that a fellow soldier owned so that he could  
35 bring a little joy and relief to his comrades-in-arms; and

36           WHEREAS, in 1967, after courageously serving this great  
37 country in Vietnam, Mr. Mosley returned to his hometown of New  
38 Albany, and as destiny would have it, his childhood friend, Bobby  
39 Johnson, who was born March 4, 1946, and who was also reared in  
40 New Albany, began a band that evolved into Bobby Johnson and the  
41 Messengers; and

42           WHEREAS, it should be noted, that although Mr. Mosley had a  
43 passion for music, he never forgot his love of education, and



44 thus, after returning from military service, he graduated from  
45 North East Mississippi Community College and then the University  
46 of Mississippi in the early 1970s, which speaks to his passion for  
47 learning; and

48 WHEREAS, as a testament to balancing, earning an education,  
49 and making wonderful music, Bobby Johnson and the Messengers had  
50 great success playing throughout North Mississippi, and in 1969,  
51 Mosley and Johnson went to Memphis and made demos for themselves  
52 and eventually met Willie Mitchell of Royal Studios and released  
53 two singles, but arguably, the group's most shining success came  
54 in the form of song writing, which Mosley began doing in high  
55 school and Johnson began after teaming up with his childhood  
56 friend; and

57 WHEREAS, in 1971, the group recorded the LP Mississippi Mud  
58 as Sam and Bob and the Soulmen featuring Doris Badie on their own  
59 SABO label, and in 1976, the band recorded several singles for  
60 Polydor as Mojoba, which represented the vocalists' last names;  
61 and

62 WHEREAS, Mosley and Johnson were associated with Muscle  
63 Shoals Sound before Malaco acquired the studio in 1985, and due to  
64 their success with Muscle Shoals Sounds, Mosley and Johnson became  
65 dynamic staples on the Malaco songwriting team, along with others;  
66 and

67 WHEREAS, after recording their first LP album on the Malaco  
68 label in 1987, they wrote songs performed by Malaco artists



69 including Bobby "Blue" Bland, Little Milton, Denise LaSalle as  
70 well as Johnnie Taylor and others, and notably, Bland recorded  
71 over a dozen Mosley and Johnson songs, including three on a Grammy  
72 nominated album in 1999; and

73 WHEREAS, Mosley and Johnson also appeared on records issued  
74 by Malaco from Dorothy Moore, Latimore, Tyrone Davis and Artie  
75 "Blues Boy" White, and their songs were recorded by blues artists  
76 Bill Coday, Trudy Lynn and Charles Wilson for other labels; and

77 WHEREAS, Sam Mosley and Bob Johnson continued to perform  
78 together until the sudden passing of Mr. Johnson during a  
79 performance on August 22, 1998; and

80 WHEREAS, although Mr. Mosley and his life long friend did not  
81 have a contract, this great man of integrity continues to direct  
82 half of the royalties earned by Mosley & Johnson to the widow of  
83 Mr. Johnson, and this includes royalties from songs solely created  
84 by Mr. Mosley since the passing of Mr. Johnson; and

85 WHEREAS, over the next several years after the passing of Mr.  
86 Johnson, Malaco artists continued to record Mosley and Johnson  
87 songs, and in 2000, Malaco issued a new album by the pair entitled  
88 Juke Joint that consisted of older demo recordings, and in 2010,  
89 Mr. Mosley self-released *The Whole World Has Still Got the Blues*,  
90 which includes songs led by his childhood friend, Mr. Johnson, as  
91 well as a duet by the pair; and

92 WHEREAS, Mr. Mosley continues to perform as a solo artist and  
93 has received various awards such as being inducted into the North



94 East Mississippi Community College Hall of Fame and being honored  
95 by the Union County Heritage Museum, *Living Blues Magazine* and  
96 Malaco Records, just to name a few; and

97 WHEREAS, throughout his blessed career, Mr. Mosley has been  
98 lovingly supported by his beautiful wife of over 50 years,  
99 Margaret, and their children and grandchildren - all of whom not  
100 only admire his musical gifts and talents but also his showing  
101 respect and kindness towards all those who are blessed to  
102 encounter this musical legend:

103 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
104 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
105 commend and congratulate Mr. Sam R. Mosley of the famed blues band  
106 Mosley & Johnson upon his musical success and wish him continued  
107 success in all his future endeavors.

108 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
109 furnished to Mr. Sam R. Mosley and to the members of the Capitol  
110 Press Corps.

