

By: Representative Creekmore IV

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 132

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING MR. ALAN CALDWELL HUNTER, A 1979
2 GRADUATE OF MILLSAPS COLLEGE AND THE FIRST VJ TO APPEAR ON MTV,
3 UPON HIS CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE FILM AND TELEVISION
4 INDUSTRIES.

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Alan Hunter a true pioneer in cable television,
6 a 1979 Millsaps College graduate, is the first video jockey (VJ)
7 to appear on MTV, and thus, made a powerful and positive impact
8 upon the fabric of television and music history; and

9 WHEREAS, a native of Birmingham, Alabama, and a 1975 graduate
10 of Mountain Brook High School, Mr. Hunter's connection with the
11 Magnolia State began when he chose to attend Millsaps College,
12 which is one of seven colleges he was accepted into and had the
13 opportunity to attend; and

14 WHEREAS, while at Millsaps, Mr. Hunter married his then
15 college girlfriend during his senior year and after graduating and
16 earning a degree in psychology, they returned to his hometown of
17 Birmingham where they both briefly acted in the Birmingham
18 Children's Theatre; and



19 WHEREAS, Mr. Hunter then moved to New York City where he
20 worked various jobs, such as bartending, when he was not
21 auditioning for acting roles and then in June of 1981, he attended
22 the Mississippi Picnic in Central Park, where his life took a
23 wonderfully different direction; and

24 WHEREAS, through his Mississippi connection - as Mr. Hunter
25 was a 1979 Millsaps College graduate - he met Mr. Bob Pittman,
26 whose father was a Methodist minister in Mississippi and who had
27 attended Millsaps for one year previously; and

28 WHEREAS, during this chance encounter at Central Park with
29 Mr. Pittman, Mr. Hunter was informed by Mr. Pittman that he was
30 creating a music video channel on cable - this creation would
31 ultimately become the one and only MTV; and

32 WHEREAS, Mr. Hunter, after telling Mr. Pittman that he served
33 as an extra and a dancer in David Bowie's new music video,
34 Fashion, was then asked by Mr. Pittman to audition for the new
35 channel early in the summer of 1981, and after a couple of
36 auditions, he was hired as a VJ, along with four other
37 individuals, Martha Quinn, J.J. Jackson, Nina Blackwood and Mark
38 Goodman, for the new cable station; and

39 WHEREAS, Mr. Hunter made broadcast history late at night on
40 Saturday, August 1, 1981, as he was on the first broadcast of MTV
41 in selected markets, and as the popularity of MTV flourished, the
42 channel became the leading place for music videos; and



43 WHEREAS, the career of Mr. Hunter soared due to his
44 popularity as a VJ on MTV, and he was known by music giants and
45 celebrities throughout the industry due to his work on the
46 groundbreaking MTV; and

47 WHEREAS, some of the interviews that Mr. Hunter had in the
48 early 1980's include: Madonna, Duran Duran and U2, Ozzy Osbourne,
49 Frank and Moon Unit Zappa, Daryl Hall & John Oates, Loverboy,
50 Kasim Sultan, Crosby Stills & Nash, Kevin Bacon, Robin Williams,
51 Dan Aykroyd, Eurythmics, Kenny Loggins, the Psychedelic Furs, Bob
52 & Doug McKenzi, Lou Reed, Billy Idol, Boy George, Aretha Franklin
53 Cyndi Lauper, Tom Hanks, the Carrs, the GoGos and Pee-wee Herman,
54 just to name a few; and

55 WHEREAS, Mr. Hunter is also a pioneer in what is known as
56 today's reality television programming, as he, during his later
57 years at MTV, was known for his road trips for programs such as
58 *MTV Spring Break*, *MTV's Amuck in America* as well as *MTV's Hedonism*
59 *Weekend with Bon Jovi in Jamaica*; and

60 WHEREAS, after six trailblazing years at MTV, Mr. Hunter left
61 the pioneering channel in August of 1987, and moved to Los Angeles
62 and during that same year, he traveled to Russia as a freelancer
63 for a program called *Rock in Russia*, which was a documentary that
64 explored rock music in Russia during a pioneering concert tour
65 with Billy Joel in Moscow and Leningrad, and later, in 1989, he
66 appeared in the film *White Hot* and in a number of Fox pilots,
67 commercials and infomercials; and



68 WHEREAS, after making his mark in Los Angeles, Mr. Hunter
69 returned to Birmingham and began a film company with his brothers,
70 called Hunter Films and created a multi-use entertainment
71 facility, WorkPlay, which was named one of America's 40 Best
72 Venues by *Paste* magazine; and

73 WHEREAS, Hunter Films, in 2003, produced the Oscar nominated
74 short film *Johnny Flynton*, which was directed by Lexi Alexander,
75 and executive produced the 2006 Sundance premiered movie
76 *Dreamland*, which starred John Corbett, Gina Gershon and Justin
77 Long, and the company also executive produced the documentary *Best*
78 *Worst Movie*, and in 2010 and one year later, co-produced feature
79 film *Lifted*, in which he costarred with Dash Mihok, Nicki Aycox,
80 Ruben Studdard, Trace Adkins and Uriah Shelton; and

81 WHEREAS, notably, Mr. Hunter, who has always exhibited his
82 entrepreneurial spirit, continued his work, in 2005 and 2006, as a
83 TV host, where he worked with *Encore and Stars*, and in 2013, he
84 coauthored *VJ: The Unplugged Adventures of MTV's First Wave*, with
85 three other original VJs of MTV, Blackwood, Goodman and Quinn; and

86 WHEREAS, in addition to being a co-author, Mr. Hunter
87 co-founded Birmingham's Sidewalk Film Festival, which was named by
88 *Time* magazine as one of the top ten "Film Festivals for the Rest
89 of Us" and where he currently serves as an advisory board member
90 and chair emeritus; and

91 WHEREAS, Mr. Hunter is also very active in the film business
92 as he launched a civic activist group, Catalyst4Birmingham, and



93 plays a pivotal role in promoting the film business in Alabama and
94 continues to lobby for legislation that creates film incentives,
95 and he was pivotal in the creation of the Birmingham-Jefferson
96 Film Office; and

97 WHEREAS, in addition to his activities in promoting the film
98 business and his other businesses, Mr. Hunter currently hosts an
99 80's-themed show on Sirius XM and manages a production company
100 with his brother and is lovingly supported by his beautiful wife,
101 Elizabeth, and their two children; and

102 WHEREAS, it is most fitting to honor a true pioneer in cable
103 television such as Mr. Hunter, whose contributions to the
104 television and film industries has not only brought great pride to
105 his family and supporters but has also brought great pride to the
106 State of Mississippi:

107 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
108 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
109 commend Mr. Alan Hunter upon his history making contributions to
110 cable television as the first VJ on MTV as well as for his
111 contributions to film and television and wish him continued
112 success in all his future endeavors.

113 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
114 furnished to Mr. Alan Caldwell Hunter and to the members of the
115 Capitol Press Corps.

