

By: Senator(s) Fillingane, Polk, Johnson,
Barnett, Horhn, Sparks, McLendon

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 508

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE DEEP AND HEARTFELT
2 SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE ON THE PASSING OF LEGENDARY
3 MISSISSIPPI BLUES-ROCK MUSICIAN GREG "FINGERS" TAYLOR WHO PLAYED
4 HARMONICA FOR JIMMY BUFFETT AND THE CORAL REEFER BAND FROM
5 1974-2000.

6 WHEREAS, Greg "Fingers" Taylor passed away on November 23,
7 2023, at the age of 71. He played harmonica for Jimmy Buffett and
8 the Coral Reefer Band from 1974 until 2000; and

9 WHEREAS, "Fingers" Taylor was an American harmonica and blues
10 artist best known for his work with Jimmy Buffett and the Coral
11 Reefer Band. In addition to appearing on tour for over 30 years
12 and on the majority of Buffett's albums, Fingers also recorded
13 with James Taylor, Chris LeDoux, Jerry Jeff Walker, Mac McAnally,
14 Little Milton, Al Kooper, Jimmy Hall, Tim Krekel, The Nitty Gritty
15 Dirt Band, Michael Nesmith, Bo Diddley, Larry Raspberry, Debbie
16 Davies, Don Nix and The Tams; and

17 WHEREAS, Taylor and Buffett met in 1970 at The University of
18 Southern Mississippi. Soon after the two met, Taylor joined Larry
19 Raspberry and the Highsteppers. Fingers and Buffett recorded A



20 *White Sport Coat and a Pink Crustacean* in 1973. It marks his
21 first appearance in Buffett's backup band known as "Coral Reefer
22 Band" and was also the first album on which long-time Reefer's
23 Michael Utley and Taylor played together. In 1974, Buffett called
24 Taylor to ask him to tour with him as part of the Coral Reefer
25 Band. Taylor continued to play in the band until 2000; and

26 WHEREAS, Taylor's nickname "Fingers" was given to him in 1969
27 by John "Johnny Rock" Buffalo (so nicknamed by Taylor) during
28 their time in The Buttermilk Blues Band in Jackson, Mississippi.
29 At the time, Taylor played keyboard for the band, hence the
30 nickname "Fingers." Taylor began playing harmonica during his
31 time in the band; and

32 WHEREAS, over the years, Buffett recorded a couple of
33 Taylor's songs. "Big Rig" was included on the album *Havana*
34 *Daydreamin*. Taylor and Buffet co-wrote "Miss You So Badly,"
35 included on Buffett's 1977 album *Changes in Latitudes, Changes in*
36 *Attitudes*. Buffett and the Coral Reefer Band also included "Dixie
37 Diner," originally recorded by Larry Raspberry and the
38 Highsteppers, on Buffett's 1978 live album *You Had to Be There*;
39 and

40 WHEREAS, Taylor, established at this point, was a cherished
41 member of the Mississippi community. He left an indelible mark on
42 the lives of his fans. Throughout his life, Taylor's passion for
43 music was unmatched. He possessed extraordinary talent as a
44 musician, and his mesmerizing performances captivated audiences



45 and brought joy to countless individuals. Fingers Taylor released
46 five studio albums of his own, and was inducted into the
47 Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame in 2012; and

48 WHEREAS, Taylor's contributions to the Mississippi music
49 scene were significant. He played a pivotal role in shaping the
50 artistic landscape of Mississippi, leaving an enduring legacy that
51 will continue to inspire aspiring musicians for generations to
52 come. His commitment to his craft and his unwavering dedication
53 to his artistry were truly commendable; and

54 WHEREAS, beyond his musical prowess, Taylor was also known
55 for his warm and kind-hearted nature. He had a remarkable ability
56 to connect with people, effortlessly making friends wherever he
57 went. Taylor's infectious laughter and genuine smile brought
58 comfort and happiness to those around him. He was a beacon of
59 light in the lives of many, always ready to lend a helping hand or
60 offer a supportive ear; and

61 WHEREAS, Taylor is survived by his sons, Steven Taylor,
62 Hunter Taylor and Richard Rierison; sister, Melanie Johnston; and
63 brother, Brent Taylor. He is also survived by nieces and nephews
64 and many cousins and relatives in the Taylor family. Our thoughts
65 go out to Taylor's family, friends and all those affected by this
66 loss of a legendary Mississippi musician who has left a lasting
67 impact on Mississippi music history and the lives of music fans:

68 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
69 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That



70 we do hereby extend the deep and heartfelt sympathy of the
71 Legislature on the passing of legendary Mississippi blues-rock
72 musician Greg "Fingers" Taylor who played harmonica for Jimmy
73 Buffett and the Coral Reefers from 1974-2000.

74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
75 the surviving family of Greg "Fingers" Taylor, forwarded to the
76 Mississippi Arts Commission, and be made available to the Capitol
77 Press Corps.

