

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Barnett, Chassaniol

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 10

1 A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE RECOGNITION OF THE MISSISSIPPI  
2 SENATE TO THE LEGACY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE OF THE 100 MEN HALL IN  
3 BAY SAINT LOUIS, MISSISSIPPI, AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2024  
4 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARD FOR ARTS IN THE COMMUNITY.

5 WHEREAS, the Governor's Arts Awards Program has announced its  
6 2024 recipients, which include the 100 Men Hall in Bay Saint  
7 Louis, Mississippi, as the 2024 recipient of the Arts in the  
8 Community Award; and

9 WHEREAS, established in 1988, Governor's Arts Awards are  
10 given to individuals and organizations to recognize outstanding  
11 work in the artistic disciplines, as well as arts-based community  
12 development and arts patronage in Mississippi. The awards are  
13 presented in partnership with the Governor's Office and signify  
14 the important relationship between government and the arts; and

15 WHEREAS, the 100 Men Hall was built by and for the African  
16 American community of Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi. In 1894, 12  
17 civic-minded African American men in Bay Saint Louis came together  
18 to form a benevolent society to care for their community; and



19           WHEREAS, from the nonprofit organization grew a desire for a  
20 place to gather and celebrate all life events, and in 1922, the  
21 100 Men Hall was built. The Hall became the epicenter of Black  
22 life and culture for the Mississippi Gulf Coast, allowing talented  
23 artists and musicians, excluded from other venues, an exhibition  
24 space while supporting cooperative economics; and

25           WHEREAS, over the decades, the Hall has attracted legendary  
26 musicians such as James Brown, Etta James and Ray Charles as a  
27 stop on the "Chitlin' Circuit." Significantly, it is one of the  
28 few physical landmarks still standing on the Mississippi Blues  
29 Trail, a rare African American landmark in the South, and today  
30 operates as a living museum and testament to its past, present and  
31 future; and

32           WHEREAS, Rachel Dangermond purchased the Hall in 2018 and  
33 resurrected the 1894 landmark as a 501c3 nonprofit and was  
34 inspired to continue the tradition of using art to tell stories by  
35 showcasing a variety of performances, such as spoken, visual and  
36 literary work while continuing the sacred act of presenting live  
37 music on its historic stage; and

38           WHEREAS, the Hall celebrates and elevates cultural diversity  
39 throughout the year with events like "A Soulful Christmas,"  
40 "Juneteenth Jubilees," "Dia de los Muertos," "The Matzo Ball,"  
41 "Drag Shows" and "Happy & Gay Hour." Every second Saturday, the  
42 100 Men Hall transforms into a haven for writers: "The Writing



43 Room." It is a unique assembly where writers convene to craft  
44 their tales within a place steeped in its own stories; and

45 WHEREAS, at the helm of this creative vessel is  
46 author-in-residence Ellen Morris Prewitt; and

47 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we pay tribute and  
48 express appreciation for the energy of a Mississippi landmark  
49 whose support of the arts has made Mississippi a better place and  
50 exemplifies the charitable and artistic/literary traditions of our  
51 great state:

52 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
53 MISSISSIPPI, That we hereby extend the recognition of the  
54 Mississippi Senate to the legacy and community service of the 100  
55 Men Hall in Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi, as the recipient of the  
56 2024 Governor's Arts Award for Arts in the Community and extend  
57 our congratulations to this outstanding arts support leader on  
58 this auspicious occasion.

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
60 the administrative staff of the 100 Men Hall and made available to  
61 the Capitol Press Corps.

