

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.

