

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Barnett, Chassaniol, England, McCaughn, Sparks, Whaley, McLendon

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 14

1 A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE RECOGNITION OF THE MISSISSIPPI  
2 SENATE TO VETERAN NORTH MISSISSIPPI HILL COUNTRY BLUES MUSICIAN  
3 CEDRIC BURNSIDE AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2024 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARD  
4 FOR EXCELLENCE IN MUSIC.

5 WHEREAS, the Governor's Arts Awards Program has announced its  
6 2024 recipients, which include well-known veteran North  
7 Mississippi Hill Country blues musician Cedric Burnside as the  
8 2024 Governor's Arts Award for Excellence in Music; 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, North Mississippi Hill Country blues musician Cedric  
16 Burnside was born in Memphis on August 26, 1978. For three  
17 decades, Burnside gained rich experience performing in the Hill  
18 Country blues tradition, notably playing drums for many years with  
19 his grandfather, Hill Country blues legend R.L. Burnside



20 (1926-2005). Cedric later became active as a vocalist, guitarist  
21 and songwriter for work that both honored local traditions and  
22 broke new ground musically; and

23 WHEREAS, he grew up in the Holly Springs, Mississippi, area  
24 in a large household headed by R.L. Burnside and his wife Alice  
25 Mae, the parents of Cedric's mother, Linda. His father, Calvin  
26 Jackson (1961-2015), began playing drums and recording with R.L.  
27 Burnside in his mid-teens; and

28 WHEREAS, Cedric Burnside's first exposure to blues was via  
29 house parties hosted by his grandfather, including Jackson and  
30 Cedric Burnside's uncles, Daniel and Joseph Burnside. Other  
31 family members, including his uncles: Junior, Dexter, Duwayne and  
32 Garry, would also perform occasionally at the house parties.  
33 Cedric was also immersed in rural traditions, helping the family  
34 raise crops and tend to their animals; and

35 WHEREAS, in the early 1990s, the Burnside family moved to a  
36 home in Chulahoma, southwest of Holly Springs, next door to  
37 "Junior's Place," a juke joint run by Junior Kimbrough. Until  
38 this point, Burnside mainly had played drums on buckets, pans and  
39 cans. He now took every opportunity to play the drum kit in the  
40 club. In the mid-1990s, Calvin Jackson moved to the Netherlands,  
41 and Cedric Burnside became the regular drummer for his  
42 grandfather's band. In addition to playing at Junior Kimbrough's,  
43 Cedric Burnside began touring nationally and internationally with  
44 his grandfather, who had gained fame via his recordings on Fat



45 Possum Records. He appeared on multiple R.L. Burnside albums and  
46 played drums on the recordings of other artists from the region,  
47 including the North Mississippi Allstars, his Uncle Duwayne, and  
48 Kenny Brown (R.L. Burnside's guitarist); he also toured with Brown  
49 as a duo; and

50 WHEREAS, his first album was *Burnside Exploration* (2006),  
51 recorded with Garry Burnside, followed by two collaborations with  
52 Lightnin' Malcolm. As the Cedric Burnside Project, he recorded  
53 *The Way I Am* (2012), featuring rap lyrics by his brother Cody  
54 (1982-2012), and the Grammy-nominated *Descendants of Hill Country*  
55 (2015), featuring Garry Burnside and Trenton Ayers, son of Hill  
56 Country blues veteran Earl "Little Joe" Ayers. His first solo  
57 album was the Grammy-nominated *Benton County Relic* (2018),  
58 followed by the critically acclaimed and Grammy-winning album *I Be*  
59 *Trying* (2021), which features him on guitar and mixes traditional  
60 Hill Country sounds with new compositions; and

61 WHEREAS, Burnside gained acclaim among blues fans for his  
62 powerful and enthusiastic drumming, as well as his off-stage charm  
63 and poise. He is the recipient of multiple blues music awards and  
64 living blues awards. Burnside was in his early 40s in 2021 when  
65 he was named a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) National  
66 Heritage Fellow. Shortly after receiving the NEA National  
67 Heritage Fellowship, he began appearing in the touring musical  
68 *Voices of Mississippi*, based on the fieldwork of folklorist  
69 William Ferris. The musical, staged at Lincoln Center in early



70 2022, celebrates Burnside's and other younger artists' deep roots  
71 in Hill Country traditions; and

72 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we pay tribute and  
73 express appreciation for the talent of a Mississippi musician who  
74 has made Mississippi a better place and exemplifies the music  
75 traditions of our great state:

76 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
77 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby extend the recognition of the  
78 Mississippi Senate to veteran North Mississippi Hill Country blues  
79 musician Cedric Burnside as the recipient of the 2024 Governor's  
80 Arts Award for Excellence in Music and extend our congratulations  
81 to Cedric Burnside on this auspicious occasion.

82 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
83 Cedric Burnside as part of the Governor's Arts Awards presentation  
84 and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

