

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Kirby, McCaughn,
Hopson, Michel

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 13

1 A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE RECOGNITION OF THE MISSISSIPPI
2 SENATE TO AWARD-WINNING BROADCASTER AND MISSISSIPPI STORYTELLER
3 WALT GRAYSON FROM GREENVILLE, MISSISSIPPI, AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE
4 2025 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT.

5 WHEREAS, the Governor's Arts Awards Program has announced its
6 2025 recipients, which include award-winning Broadcaster and
7 Mississippi Storyteller Walt Grayson of Greenville and Brandon,
8 Mississippi, as the 2025 Governor's Arts Award recipient for
9 Lifetime Achievement; and

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

16 WHEREAS, Walt Grayson, a revered figure in Mississippi, has
17 spent over five decades narrating the stories of his beloved
18 state; and



19 WHEREAS, Grayson grew up in Greenville, Mississippi, where he
20 worked at WJPR radio station while in high school. Grayson never
21 intended to pursue a career in broadcasting. At Mississippi
22 College, he chose a degree in Bible and a minor in history.
23 Grayson aspired to become a preacher, but ultimately, his love of
24 broadcasting prevailed; and

25 WHEREAS, Grayson continued to work in radio for WRBC and
26 several other Jackson radio stations until he transitioned to
27 television in 1984 when he joined the WLBT team. Grayson wore
28 many hats throughout his tenure there, including anchor, reporter,
29 and weatherman. With his deep connection to Mississippi's culture
30 and his background in history, Grayson could tell Mississippi's
31 story in a way that connected deeply with audiences. However, his
32 impact goes beyond his professional achievements. Known for his
33 warm demeanor and genuine connection with people, Grayson is often
34 approached by fans who see him more as a cherished family member
35 than a celebrity. His humility and accessibility have endeared
36 him to many, making him a true icon of Mississippi culture; and

37 WHEREAS, it was a natural fit when Grayson was chosen to host
38 *Mississippi Roads* on Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB), a
39 program that explores Mississippi's history, culture, unique
40 landmarks, people and stories. During his time as host, Grayson
41 told countless Mississippi stories. The program became so popular
42 that it was picked up by the PBS Create TV nationally; and



43 WHEREAS, his storytelling extends to print. Grayson has
44 written four books about his travels around Mississippi and writes
45 a monthly column for the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi's
46 newspaper, *Today in Mississippi*. His book *Looking Around*
47 *Mississippi Some More* was selected as the 2008 nonfiction Book of
48 the Year by the Mississippi Library Association; and

49 WHEREAS, Grayson continues to explore and share the stories
50 of Mississippi, driven by an unwavering love for his home state
51 and its people. He currently works as a news anchor and
52 lifestyle/feature reporter for WJTV-12 in Jackson, Mississippi.
53 His role at WJTV-12 allows him to continue his beloved
54 storytelling tradition, capturing the essence of Mississippi for a
55 new generation of viewers. Grayson won two Southeast Regional
56 Emmy Awards for his work on WJTV-12's *A Mississippi Carol*
57 Christmas special; and

58 WHEREAS, Grayson has been honored numerous times for his
59 outstanding work. He has multiple Emmy nominations and awards and
60 is a member of the Mississippi Associated Press Broadcasters Hall
61 of Fame and the Emmy Golden Circle. He also received a Lifetime
62 Achievement Award from the Mississippi Association of Broadcasters
63 and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Greenville Arts Council;
64 and

65 WHEREAS, as long as there are stories to tell and places to
66 discover, Grayson remains dedicated to his craft, embodying the
67 spirit of Mississippi through every tale he shares; and



68 WHEREAS, he is married to his junior high school sweetheart,
69 Jo, and they have three children, four grandchildren and five
70 great-grandchildren; and

71 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we pay tribute and
72 express appreciation for the energy of a Mississippi broadcaster
73 who has made Mississippi a better place and exemplifies the
74 charitable and artistic/literary traditions of our great state:

75 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
76 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby extend the recognition of the
77 Mississippi Senate to award-winning Broadcaster and Mississippi
78 Storyteller Walt Grayson from Greenville, Mississippi, as the
79 recipient of the 2025 Governor's Arts Award for Lifetime
80 Achievement and extend our congratulations to this outstanding
81 arts and civic leader on this auspicious occasion.

82 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
83 Walt Grayson and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

