

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Blackmon, Butler,  
Chassaniol, Frazier, McLendon, Robinson,  
Simmons (13th), Simmons (12th), Thomas,  
Norwood

To: Rules

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 15

1 A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE RECOGNITION OF THE MISSISSIPPI  
2 SENATE TO THE LEGACY AND TALENT OF EDDIE COTTON, JR., OF JACKSON,  
3 MISSISSIPPI, AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2025 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARD  
4 FOR EXCELLENCE IN MUSIC.

5 WHEREAS, the Governor's Arts Awards Program has announced its  
6 2025 recipients, which include Gospel/blues artist Eddie Cotton,  
7 Jr., of Jackson, Mississippi, as the 2025 Governor's Arts Award  
8 recipient 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, Eddie Cotton, Jr., is a Gospel-infused, juke  
16 joint-style Blues Artist with a worldwide reach. He was born in  
17 Jackson, Mississippi, and moved to Clinton, Mississippi, when he  
18 was two years old. Cotton grew up singing and playing gospel  
19 music in his father's church. He started on the drums and then



20 took piano lessons at home. As a youth, he began listening to the  
21 blues, and it was not long before that foot-stomping, down-home  
22 music would stir in his soul, inspiring him to pick up the  
23 electric guitar and cleverly interpret the blues with an original  
24 modern flare; and

25 WHEREAS, when Cotton was six, his father took him to the YWCA  
26 on Farish Street, where he took guitar lessons from Zac Harmon,  
27 who was 17 years old at the time. Cotton and his father often  
28 visited other churches, allowing Eddie to learn new chords and  
29 techniques and expand his guitar skills. The gospel music he  
30 learned in the Church of God in Christ was a creative mix of funk,  
31 blues, and even a little jazz. Cotton was attracted to the blues  
32 while listening to it on the radio because it reminded him of  
33 church chords; and

34 WHEREAS, Cotton received a scholarship to Jackson State  
35 University (JSU), where he learned to play jazz and studied music  
36 theory. During his time at JSU, he began to get into the blues  
37 scene. Cotton frequented the legendary Subway Lounge, where he  
38 would watch King Edward Antoine play. Antoine soon learned that  
39 Cotton could play guitar and mentored him. Cotton joined King  
40 Edwards's band for almost two years until 1996 when Cotton put  
41 together his own band, The Mississippi Cotton Club; and

42 WHEREAS, Cotton's music inspires his fans to get up, move,  
43 and dance. Cotton has shared line-ups with notables such as  
44 Hubert Sumlin, Honey Boy Edwards, Bobby Rush, B.B. King, Little



45 Milton Campbell, Dorothy Moore, The Temptations, Cassandra Wilson,  
46 Smokey Wilson, Charlie Pride, Marty Stewart, Sonny Rhodes, The  
47 Williams Brothers, Mavis Staples, Gladys Knight, Chaka Khan, Patti  
48 LaBelle and many more; and

49 WHEREAS, his blues career has taken him all over the world,  
50 and he has played at prestigious festivals and events in Canada,  
51 Finland, Norway, France, Germany, and throughout the United  
52 States. Cotton has performed at four of the Mississippi GRAMMY  
53 Legacy shows cosponsored by the Recording Academy, Los Angeles,  
54 and the State of Mississippi. He has also been featured in  
55 numerous publications nationally and internationally and has  
56 appeared in several films about the blues; and

57 WHEREAS, Cotton's honors include The Peavey Award (2008),  
58 Winner of the Vicksburg Blues Society Blues Challenge (2014),  
59 Winner of the International Blues Challenge, Memphis (2015),  
60 Jackson Music Awards Entertainer of the Year (2016), Jus' Blues  
61 Awards Entertainer of the Year (2016) and Central Mississippi  
62 Blues Society Lifetime Achievement Award (2024). Among his awards  
63 and accolades, he has a Mississippi Blues Trail marker in his  
64 hometown of Clinton; and

65 WHEREAS, Cotton has recorded five albums, two of which were  
66 live recordings at the Alamo Theater in Jackson. His most recent  
67 release, *The Mirror* on the Malaco label, comprises all original  
68 songs. Cotton continues to perform at events nationally and  
69 internationally. He is working on a new album release for 2025



70 and is part of a book project about Jackson, Mississippi's music  
71 history, which will be unveiled in 2025; and

72 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we pay tribute and  
73 express appreciation for the energy of a Mississippi musician  
74 whose performances have made Mississippi a better place and  
75 exemplifies the charitable and artistic/musical traditions of our  
76 great state:

77 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
78 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby extend the recognition of the  
79 Mississippi Senate to the legacy and talent of Eddie Cotton, Jr.,  
80 of Jackson, Mississippi, as the recipient of the 2025 Governor's  
81 Arts Award for Excellence in Music and extend our congratulations  
82 to this outstanding musician on this auspicious occasion.

83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
84 Eddie Cotton, Jr., and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

