

By: Senator(s) Frazier, Horhn

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 557

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING GEORGE  
2 BERRY OF PEARL, MISSISSIPPI, UPON HIS RECEIPT OF THE 2001 ARTIST'S  
3 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD OF THE GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE  
4 ARTS.

5 WHEREAS, George Berry of Pearl, Mississippi, is the 2001  
6 recipient of the Artist's Achievement Award of the Governor's  
7 Awards for Excellence in the Arts; and

8 WHEREAS, George Berry has been carving wood since the age of  
9 seven, when his father taught him how to handle a knife; and

10 WHEREAS, he is known for his distinctive carvings of animals  
11 which he creates using a pocketknife, and he exhibits his work and  
12 demonstrates woodcarving throughout the South and Southwest; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Berry has been an influential traditional artist  
14 in Mississippi since moving here from his native Oklahoma in 1972  
15 to teach at the Piney Woods School; and

16 WHEREAS, a 1999 recipient of the Mississippi Arts Commission  
17 Folk Art Fellowship, his works are in museums and private  
18 collections from Maine to Oklahoma; he has been featured on  
19 Mississippi ETV, area television and radio programs and in  
20 numerous national publications; in 1996 and 1997, Mr. Berry was  
21 the commissioned artist for the Governor's Awards for Excellence  
22 in the Arts; with a woodcarving career that spans more than 50  
23 years, he is a charter member and Fellow of the Craftsmen's Guild  
24 of Mississippi and a recipient of the Guild's highest award for  
25 Lifetime Achievement and Professional Accomplishments; and

26 WHEREAS, a self-taught artist, Mr. Berry has a strong  
27 commitment to artistic excellence and delights in sharing his art

28 form with others; he taught his children a love and respect for  
29 woodcarving and is now passing this on to his grandchildren and  
30 hundreds of other children as he travels the state each year  
31 presenting woodcarving demonstrations and workshops; Mr. Berry  
32 also teaches weekly woodcarving classes for the Craftsmen's Guild;  
33 Mr. Berry prefers to carve and whittle with a simple pocketknife,  
34 using no other tools or equipment; he still carves many nights  
35 past midnight and as late as 3:00 a.m. on weekends; Mr. Berry is  
36 rarely without his favorite pocketknife and a sturdy twig or two  
37 that in a few seconds he can transform into a bouquet of  
38 delicately shaved flowers for an impromptu audience, because most  
39 of all, George Berry is a woodcarver who loves to carve:

40       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
41 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
42 we do hereby commend and congratulate George Berry upon his  
43 receipt of the 2001 Artist's Achievement Award of the Governor's  
44 Awards for Excellence in the Arts, and wish him continued success  
45 in his future artistic endeavors.

46       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be  
47 presented to George Berry and his family at the Awards Ceremony to  
48 be held on Friday, February 9, 2001, and be made available to the  
49 Capitol Press Corps.