

By: Senator(s) Dawkins, Horhn, Jackson
(11th), Jordan, Jackson (32nd), Ross,
Frazier, Burton, Butler, Dearing, Kirby,
Thomas, Walls, Williamson

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 526

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND CAREER OF
2 PRENTISS BARNES OF MAGNOLIA, MISSISSIPPI, WHO SANG WITH THE 1950
3 VOCAL GROUP "THE MOONGLOWS" AND IS A MEMBER OF THE ROCK AND ROLL
4 HALL OF FAME.

5 WHEREAS, Prentiss Barnes, who sang with the 1950s vocal group
6 "The Moonglows" and is a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame,
7 died in a traffic accident in southwest Mississippi on September
8 30, 2006; and

9 WHEREAS, Barnes, 81, was born on April 12, 1925, in Magnolia,
10 Mississippi. He was a bass singer for The Moonglows and was
11 inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in March 2000. He is
12 also a member of the Vocal Group Hall of Fame and a Rhythm and
13 Blues Foundation Pioneer; and

14 WHEREAS, The Moonglows' Rhythm and Blues and doo-wop
15 recordings include "Blue Velvet," "Most of All," "We Go Together,"
16 "Over and Over Again," "Just a Lonely Christmas," "Starlite,"
17 "See-Saw," "Love is a River" and "Ten Commandments of Love." The
18 McGuire Sisters recorded a pop version of their 1950s hit
19 "Sincerely." The Moonglows disbanded in the mid-1960s, and Barnes
20 went solo; and

21 WHEREAS, in 1969, Barnes struck out on a solo career and
22 headed for California. On the westward trip, Barnes was injured
23 when a train struck his car in Texas. After the wreck, it took
24 two years and ten operations before Barnes was well enough to
25 return to Mississippi; and

26 WHEREAS, Barnes, who grew up in Mississippi, moved as a
27 teenager to Louisville, Kentucky, where he met his band mates.
28 "He knocked on the door of my apartment and said 'My name is

29 Prentiss Barnes and I can sing," says Moonglows frontman Harvey
30 Fuqua. Inspired by the "Ink Spots," the fivesome began gigging
31 around Cleveland as the Crazy Sounds in 1951. Within two years
32 the group had a new name, courtesy of DJ Alan Freed, and was
33 topping the charts with "We Go Together," "Sincerely" and "Ten
34 Commandments of Love." In 2000, Barnes reunited with the
35 surviving Moonglows when the group was inducted into the Rock and
36 Roll Hall of Fame; and

37 WHEREAS, Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame founder Jim
38 Brewer of Hazlehurst said Barnes' death is another loss of the
39 state's musical legacy. "He was a real Mississippi music
40 treasure, and like so many Mississippi musicians, throughout his
41 career he had to sustain himself with performances," and it is
42 with sadness that we note the passing of this great Mississippi
43 musician who contributed to the musical legacy and brought honor
44 to our state:

45 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
46 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
47 we do hereby commend the life and career of Prentiss Barnes of
48 Magnolia, Mississippi, who sang with the 1950s vocal group "The
49 Moonglows" and is a member of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and
50 extend the sympathy of the Legislature to his surviving family on
51 his passing.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
53 the surviving family of Prentiss Barnes and be made available to
54 the Capitol Press Corps.