

Chapter No. 2117
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SENATE
CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
No. 580

Originated in Senate *Liz Welch* Secretary

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 580

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MISSISSIPPI SONGWRITER JIM WEATHERLY OF PONTOTOC, MISSISSIPPI, UPON HIS RECEIPT OF THE 2014 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MUSIC AND FOR HIS SELECTION TO THE SONGWRITERS HALL OF FAME.

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Arts Commission has announced that Mississippi songwriter and former All-SEC Quarterback Jim Weatherly of Pontotoc, Mississippi, has been named as recipient of the prestigious 2014 Governor's Arts Award for Excellence in Music, with the Awards Ceremony to be held on February 20, 2014, in the Concert Hall of Belhaven University Center for the Arts; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi-born Songwriter has also secured his place among legends by being elected into the Songwriters Hall of Fame. Joining the likes of Smokey Robinson, Bob Dylan, Stevie Wonder, John Fogerty and James Taylor in the Hall of Fame, he will be inducted on June 12, 2014, at the Awards Ceremony at New York's Marriott Marquis. His fellow 2014 class members include Donovan, Ray Davies, Graham Gouldman and Mark James; and

WHEREAS, Jim Weatherly was born in Pontotoc, Mississippi, and began writing songs when he was 12 years old. He attended the University of Mississippi on a football scholarship, where he was an All-Southeastern Conference Quarterback and an Honorable Mention All-American for the Ole Miss Rebels Football Team in 1964. He was a member of the only unbeaten and untied National Championship Rebel Football Team in Ole Miss history in 1962 and SEC Champions in 1962 and 1963; and

WHEREAS, Jim had his own bands during high school and college and played dates throughout the South until he moved to Los Angeles with his rock band, The Gordian Knot, in 1966; and

WHEREAS, during his years in Los Angeles, Jim wrote songs which not only became Pop and R&B Classics, but also crossed over to Country, Gospel and Jazz. "Neither One Of Us Wants To Be The First To Say Goodbye" was a No. 1 Pop and Soul hit and won a Grammy Award for Gladys Knight & The Pips. "Midnight Train To Georgia" was also a No. 1 Pop and No. 1 R&B hit and helped Gladys Knight & The Pips win another Grammy Award; and

WHEREAS, Jim was nominated for a Grammy as songwriter in the R&B Song category. He was ASCAPs Country Songwriter of the Year in 1974 and served on the Board of Directors for the Nashville Songwriters Association International for five years; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, he was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, as well as the Musicians Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, in 1999 "Midnight Train To Georgia" was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Jim said, "My life changed the night in 1969 when singer Johnny Rivers invited me to his Hollywood home, and Jimmy Webb was there also. Elvis Presley was the first music inspiration in my life. Jimmy Webb was the second," Weatherly said of the man who wrote most of Glen Campbell's hits:

"Galveston," "By the time I Get to Phoenix" and "Wichita Lineman." Jim Weatherly stayed true to who he was, to his Mississippi small-town upbringing and to what he wanted to do with his life; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Arts Awards are presented annually to outstanding writers, artists, performers, craftsmen and educators who have made significant and lasting contributions through their work as well as to corporations or organizations on the basis of their dedication to arts advancement; and

WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we pay tribute to this nationally recognized Mississippi Songwriter whose body of work has brought honor to his community and to the State of Mississippi:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That we do hereby recognize Mississippi Songwriter Jim Weatherly of Pontotoc, Mississippi, upon his receipt of the 2014 Governor's Arts Award for Excellence in Music and for his selection to the

Songwriters Hall of Fame, and extend our best wishes to Jim and his family on the occasion of the Awards Ceremony on February 20, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to Jim Weatherly, forwarded to the Governor and the Mississippi Arts Commission, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

ADOPTED BY THE SENATE
February 26, 2014



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
February 28, 2014



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES