

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 13

Recognizing the importance of blues music, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 27, 2003

Mr. FORD submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the importance of blues music, and for other purposes.

Whereas blues music is the most influential form of music indigenous to the United States, providing the roots for contemporary music heard around the world such as rock and roll, jazz, rhythm and blues, and country, and even influencing classical music;

Whereas the blues is a national historic treasure, which needs to be preserved and studied for the benefit of future generations;

Whereas blues music documents twentieth-century United States history, especially during the Great Depression and in the areas of race relations and pop culture;

Whereas the various forms of blues music trace the transformation of the United States from a rural, agricultural society to an urban, industrialized country;

Whereas the blues is an important facet of African-American culture in the twentieth century;

Whereas every year, people in the United States hold hundreds of blues festivals, and millions of new or reissued blues albums are released;

Whereas blues musicians from the United States, whether old or new, male or female, are recognized and revered worldwide as unique and important ambassadors of the United States and its music;

Whereas it is important to educate the young people of the United States so that they understand that the music they listen to today has its roots and traditions in the blues;

Whereas there are many living legends of blues music in the United States who should be recognized and have their stories captured and preserved for future generations; and

Whereas the year 2003 would be an appropriate time to recognize the importance of blues music since it is the centennial anniversary of when W.C. Handy composed the first blues music to be released throughout the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3 (1) recognizes the importance of blues music
4 with respect to many cultural developments in
5 United States history;

1 (2) calls on the people of the United States to
2 take the opportunity to study, reflect on, and cele-
3 brate the importance of the blues; and

4 (3) requests that the President issue a procla-
5 mation calling on the people of the United States
6 and interested organizations to observe the impor-
7 tance of the blues with appropriate ceremonies, ac-
8 tivities, and educational programs.

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