

1 State of Arkansas  
2 86th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2007

SMR 7

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5 By: Senator Bryles  
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8 **SENATE MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**

9 CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LOUIS JORDAN, A NATIVE  
10 ARKANSAN, AND HIS EXTRAORDINARY MUSICAL  
11 ACCOMPLISHMENTS.  
12

13 **Subtitle**

14 CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LOUIS JORDAN, A  
15 NATIVE ARKANSAN, AND HIS EXTRAORDINARY  
16 MUSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS.  
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18  
19 WHEREAS, Louis Thomas Jordan is a multi-generational Arkansan, born in  
20 Brinkley, Arkansas on July 8, 1908; and  
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22 WHEREAS, Louis Jordan learned music from his father James Aaron Jordan  
23 – himself a musician and leader of the Brinkley Brass Band who studied under  
24 W. C. Handy; and  
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26 WHEREAS, Louis Jordan furthered his musicianship in such Arkansas  
27 cities as El Dorado, Smackover, Hot Springs, and Little Rock, as well as by  
28 performing in traveling shows and eventually forming his own small combo in  
29 the Big Band era; and  
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31 WHEREAS, Louis Jordan and his Tympani Five found popularity and  
32 longevity on the record charts that has yet to be equaled while establishing  
33 the framework for rhythm and blues and rock and roll; and  
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35 WHEREAS, Louis Jordan charted more than fifty (50) hits, including,  
36 "Let the Good Times Roll," "Caldonia Boogie," "Is You Is Or Is You Ain't My



1 Baby," "Five Guys Named Moe," "Ain't Nobody Here But Us Chickens," and "Choo  
2 Choo Ch'Boogie," and recorded duets with the likes of Louis Armstrong, Bing  
3 Crosby, and Ella Fitzgerald; and

4  
5 WHEREAS, Louis Jordan starred in early examples of music video shorts  
6 and his own full-length film, as well as Hollywood films with such costars as  
7 George Raft and the Three Stooges; and

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9 WHEREAS, the music of Louis Jordan has profoundly influenced the likes  
10 of Chuck Berry, B. B. King, James Brown, Bo Diddley, Dizzy Gillespie and many  
11 others – performers who are themselves considered influences today; and

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13 WHEREAS, after a life of representing Arkansas in the highest manner to  
14 audiences around the world, Louis Jordan died in Los Angeles on February 5,  
15 1975, never having lost love for his home state; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, Arkansan Louis Jordan is internationally recognized as an  
18 American musical pioneer, and the year 2008 will mark the centennial of Louis  
19 Jordan's birth,

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21 NOW THEREFORE,

22 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
23 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

24  
25 THAT the Senate of the Eighty-Sixth General Assembly celebrates the  
26 outstanding accomplishments of Louis Jordan and recognizes the distinguished  
27 way in which he represented the State of Arkansas throughout his successes.