

Senate Resolution 23

By: Senators Butler of the 55th, Seay of the 34th, Henson of the 41st, Anderson of the 43rd, Davenport of the 44th and others

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Celebrating the life of Prince Rogers Nelson; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, Prince Rogers Nelson was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on June 7, 1958;
3 and
- 4 WHEREAS, at the age of 17, Prince followed his jazz musician father's footsteps and signed
5 a recording contract with Warner Brothers' Records and would go on to sell over 100 million
6 albums worldwide; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Prince became a household name with his innovative sounds, eccentric dress,
8 and ability to write, arrange, produce, and play an estimated 20+ instruments for his songs;
9 and
- 10 WHEREAS, in 1984, Prince starred in the blockbuster and loosely autobiographical film
11 *Purple Rain* and accompanying soundtrack, becoming the first person to simultaneously hold
12 a number one album and film; and
- 13 WHEREAS, Prince's music, a combination of funk, R&B, rock, and gospel, created what is
14 known as the "Minneapolis Sound," which influenced other Twin City artists and producers
15 such as Morris Day and the Time, Mint Condition, and Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis; and
- 16 WHEREAS, Prince wrote and produced many songs for noted artists such as Patti LaBelle,
17 Chaka Khan, Tevin Campbell, and Sheila E., and his songs have been sampled or covered
18 by Beyoncé, Alicia Keys, 2Pac, Tom Petty, and Madonna; and
- 19 WHEREAS, Prince has received numerous awards for his groundbreaking work, including
20 NAACP Image Awards, an Academy Award for *Purple Rain*, seven Grammy Awards, a
21 Golden Globe Award, and more; and

22 WHEREAS, Prince's passion extended beyond his artistry to many philanthropic activities
23 and a strong commitment to social justice, donating his time and wealth to a host of issues
24 that he was passionate about, such as environmental justice, economic empowerment, and
25 overall social justice initiatives and campaigns; and

26 WHEREAS, in 2015, in response to the protests surrounding the death of Freddie Gray in
27 Baltimore, Prince held a benefit concert in the city and donated a portion of the proceeds to
28 the NAACP ACT-SO program; and

29 WHEREAS, Prince's influence can be heard in countless newer artists, including Esperanza
30 Spalding, Janelle Monáe, Andy Allo, Miguel, and Frank Ocean; and

31 WHEREAS, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inducted Prince into its esteemed institution
32 in 2004, the first year that he was eligible for induction after more than 25 years in the music
33 industry; and

34 WHEREAS, on April 21, 2016, Prince passed away at his home in Chanhassen, Minnesota,
35 and in the days and weeks after his premature passing, family, friends, and millions of
36 adoring fans around the world took to the airwaves and streets to express their grief on this
37 tremendous loss.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
39 celebrate the life and music of Prince Rogers Nelson and express their deepest and most
40 sincere regret at his passing.

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
42 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the family of
43 Prince Rogers Nelson.