

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 245

**WHEREAS**, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Dr. Vernard Johnson, who was honored as the Entertainer of the Year by the Texas Legislative Black Caucus on February 7, 2003; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Johnson, the first African American to receive a doctorate in music from the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, is president of the Vernard Johnson Concert Ministry; he is also the first executive director of the Instrumental Music Division of the International Music Department of the Church of God in Christ, worldwide; and

**WHEREAS**, The first gospel music recording artist to have recorded 16 albums on the saxophone, Vernard Johnson, has been acclaimed as "The Greatest Gospel Saxophonist in the World"; and

**WHEREAS**, A highly regarded musician by music critics and by religious and world leaders, Dr. Johnson has established an outstanding reputation for his gospel music ministry; he has performed before diverse audiences, including President Ronald Reagan and President Bill Clinton, kings and queens, federal prisoners, and public school students; and

**WHEREAS**, Through his television, radio, and personal appearances, Vernard Johnson has performed before more than 400 million people worldwide; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Johnson has inspired countless individuals throughout Texas and the world to deepen their spiritual values, and he has received honors from more than 100 cities for the positive impact he has had on the lives of his listeners; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 78th Legislature, hereby commend and congratulate Dr. Vernard Johnson on his outstanding ministry and on earning the title of Entertainer of the Year and extend best wishes to him for the future; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for him as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Nelson

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President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on March 4, 2003.

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Secretary of the Senate

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Member, Texas Senate