



Assembly Member **SANDRÉ SWANSON**
News Release

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State Assembly Adjourns In Memory Of Michael Jackson

Farrah Fawcet, Ed McMahan Also Memorialized

(Sacramento) – California Legislative Black Caucus Chair Assemblymember Sandré R. Swanson (D-Alameda) requested that the California State Assembly adjourn yesterday in the memory of Michael Jackson. The chamber observed a moment of silence for Jackson near the beginning of the day's business.

"I think it's a time for us to recognize him as 'King of Pop' in the most positive way we can," Assemblymember Swanson said on the Assembly floor. "And I encourage us to adjourn in memory and send our condolences to the Jackson family and to all those fans who are mourning his loss."

Assemblymember Mike Davis (D-Los Angeles), a fellow Black Caucus member and Chair of the Assembly Committee on Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism and Internet Media, recalled crossing paths with Jackson while working as an aide to Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., then in the state Assembly. "This was long before any professional and personal challenges to his career or to himself, but during this time he was very fortunate, I believe, to have shared himself and his money with a youth and sports foundation ... over on Crenshaw Boulevard," Assemblymember Davis said. "And the light on the faces of the young people, many of whom happened to be foster children, was immeasurable."

"Michael Jackson was a pioneering artist, inspiring countless musicians. He lead the way for other recording artists of color in the emerging music video industry of the 80's, at a time when there were few such artists visible on such venues like MTV. An entire generation grew up to the Jackson 5, the Thriller Album, and the Moonwalk. He was generous in his charitable giving and an international icon. His untimely passing is a terrible loss to both his family and to the entire nation," Assemblymember Swanson concluded.

The Assembly also adjourned in memory of Farrah Fawcet, 62, and Ed McMahan, 86. Both died earlier this week.

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