



## Arizona State Senate

Sen. Gail Griffin, R-14

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## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



### Senator Griffin pays tribute to Rex Allen, Jr.

(Phoenix, State Capitol) ---- On Tuesday, January 24, Senator Gail Griffin led the Senate in paying tribute to an iconic Arizona singer. Governor Ducey declared that day "Rex Allen, Jr. Day" and Senator Griffin read the proclamation. In it, she recognized Allen's many successes. "I Love You, Arizona", a song that Mr. Allen says defined his career, was declared the alternate state song and official theme of Arizona's Centennial celebrations by Arizona's State Legislature in 2012. Rex Allen began singing at the age of five in his beloved home of Willcox. He was the first musician allowed to perform on the Great Wall of China and was inducted into the Western Music Hall of Fame.

After the reading of the proclamation, Mr. Allen entered the Senate floor in western flair, wearing a black hat, black boots and a bolo tie, which is Arizona's official state neckwear. He graciously thanked the senators for their standing ovation and briefly explained the origins of the song, "I Love You, Arizona," and how it was written in 30 minutes after a friendly prod by his father, Rex Allen Sr. The singer went on to say it was an easy song to write because, "It's about a place, and a people, I've loved all of my life." Mr. Allen ended his remarks with advice for all poets and writers, saying, "Write from the heart, not the head." Then he treated Senators and guests to a live rendition of "I Love You, Arizona".

Mr. Allen was joined at the ceremony by Larry Schultz, Delcie Schultz and Barbara Ubel from Willcox, and Debbie Martin and Bonnie Dunn of Casa Grande.

Mr. Allen's father, Rex Allen, Sr., also known as Arizona's Cowboy, has been honored and celebrated in Willcox every year in early October since 1951.

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*Pictures of the Senate ceremony are attached*

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