

By: Representative Broomfield

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 17

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE MOSS POINT MONARCHS
2 BASEBALL TEAM.

3 WHEREAS, the Moss Point Monarchs actually began as the Moss
4 Point Athletics in the mid-1920's under the guidance of Johnny
5 George and played at what was known as the Polo Grounds and the
6 "Roundhouse" field; and

7 WHEREAS, after the depression hit in the 1930's and interest
8 in baseball declined, Alphonse "Baby Ray" Ellis, decided to bring
9 baseball back to Moss Point in the late 1940's; and

10 WHEREAS, Ellis was considered the team owner and often served
11 as the manager, father figure and best friend to the squad, a
12 mixture of teenagers and veteran players, known as the Moss Point
13 Tigers in 1948 and 1949; and

14 WHEREAS, in 1950, the Pascagoula Recreation Department took
15 over Ingalls Field prohibiting semi-pro baseball from being
16 played; and

17 WHEREAS, Ellis contacted the owner of the land, Bill Howard,
18 who donated the land and allowed Ellis, with the help of the
19 community, to build the field that would become home to his
20 Monarchs; and

21 WHEREAS, also instrumental in the success of the Monarchs
22 were Walter Knight, who served as the coach and trainer, and
23 Isabelle Knight and Earnestine Ellis Fountain, who served as
24 hostesses and cooks for the players; and

25 WHEREAS, Major League greats such as Billy Williams, Willie
26 McCovey and Cleo Jones were known to frequent the Ellis Athletic

27 Field in Moss Point, which stood on McCall Street; and

28 WHEREAS, in 1962, the land on which the Ellis Athletic Field
29 was situated was bought by the city and the park was torn down to
30 make room for East Park Elementary School; and

31 WHEREAS, well-known teams from the professional Negro League
32 such as the Kansas City Monarchs, Cuban All-Stars and the
33 Birmingham Black Barons made stops in the area to take on the
34 local squad as part of their infamous "barn-storming" tours; and

35 WHEREAS, Ira Mobley, one of Ellis' best players, had played
36 for both Kansas City and Birmingham before taking a job as a
37 teacher in the Moss Point School District which led him to play
38 third base and sometimes coach for the local Monarchs; and

39 WHEREAS, Mobley joined players such as Cisero Lewis, John
40 Henry Davis, Don Hyde and Richard Polk as mainstays on the Moss
41 Point Monarchs; and

42 WHEREAS, other top players for the Monarchs included Silas
43 Lee, Fred Huckleby, Roosevelt Young, Henry Coleman, Jimmy Joseph,
44 Thomas Holloway, Phillip Brown, Charles Hyde, Reginald Green,
45 Jerry Russell, Johnny Gilliam and Robert "Big Cat" Johnson; and

46 WHEREAS, the Monarchs played teams like the Mobile Black
47 Bears, New Orleans Creoles and Bogalusa Tigers, in addition to
48 teams from Gulfport, Biloxi, Laurel and Hattiesburg on the local
49 circuit; and

50 WHEREAS, Ellis and Mobley gradually left the game and the
51 Monarchs, led by Tommy Nettles, moved to a new home on Pine Island
52 Road, now Martin Luther King; and

53 WHEREAS, the Moss Point Monarchs provided entertainment and
54 athletic competition for thousands of people in Jackson County,
55 Mississippi; and

56 WHEREAS, in the mid-1960's, the Monarchs eventually dispersed
57 for good but paved the way for future semi-pro teams such as the
58 Pas-Point Pirates and the Pascagoula Merchants, who revived the
59 games in the 1970's and 1980's; and

60 WHEREAS, the Moss Point Monarchs was a team with players
61 dedicated to the game of baseball who played the game with hearts
62 full of passion; and

63 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Mississippi finds it
64 most appropriate to recognize and commend excellence evidenced by
65 athletes who have set examples of hard work, dedication and love
66 for the game of baseball:

67 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
68 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
69 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate the Moss Point
70 Monarchs for their success in the semi-pro baseball league and for
71 paving the way for future generations in the area of baseball.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
73 furnished to the former players of the Moss Point Monarchs and the
74 members of the Capitol Press Corps.