

By: Senator(s) Johnson (19th), White (29th), Johnson (38th), Blackmon To: Rules

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 19

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING, HONORING AND COMMENDING AN  
2 OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI AND THE UNITED  
3 STATES OF AMERICA, DR. JAMES HOWARD MEREDITH, ON THE 40TH  
4 ANNIVERSARY OF THE DESEGREGATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI,  
5 AND DESIGNATING OCTOBER 1, 2002, AS "DR. JAMES H. MEREDITH DAY."

6 WHEREAS, Dr. James Howard Meredith was born June 25, 1933, in  
7 Kosciusko, Mississippi, and raised on his family's 84-acre farm in  
8 rural Attala County; and

9 WHEREAS, Dr. James Howard Meredith returned to the State of  
10 Mississippi in 1961 after graduating from a St. Petersburg,  
11 Florida high school in 1951 and serving nine years in the United  
12 States Air Force earning the rank of Sergeant First Class as a  
13 Clerical Trainee Supervisor for the Tokyo Japanese civilians  
14 working at Tachikawa Air Force Base in Japan; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. James Howard Meredith enrolled in 1961 at  
16 Jackson State University and later enrolled at the University of  
17 Mississippi on October 1, 1962, making him the first Black to  
18 enroll and graduate from an all-white state institution in the  
19 State of Mississippi on August 18, 1963; and

20 WHEREAS, because of the difficulties that surrounded his  
21 admission to the University of Mississippi in those days, Dr.  
22 Meredith's enrollment at the University of Mississippi should  
23 serve as a role model for generations and generations to come; and

24 WHEREAS, Dr. James Howard Meredith attended school at the  
25 University of Nigeria and visited over 20 African governments and  
26 countries. He decided to write about his experience in  
27 Mississippi in a book titled "*Three Years in Mississippi*" which is



28 a step-by-step account of his efforts to desegregate the  
29 University of Mississippi; and

30 WHEREAS, Dr. James Howard Meredith earned his L.L.B. from  
31 Columbia University Law School in 1968; and

32 WHEREAS, Meredith started a voter registration march which  
33 was to be from Memphis to Jackson that ended up registering over  
34 300,000 registered voters that later became known as the "Meredith  
35 March Against Fear." During the March, Meredith received three  
36 shotgun blasts from a would-be assassin. After Meredith was  
37 wounded, Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. continued the march for Meredith  
38 which led to his stay in Mississippi for two weeks, and Meredith,  
39 after recuperating in Canton, Mississippi, rejoined the March and  
40 brought the March to Jackson ending on June 26, 1966; and

41 WHEREAS, in 1996, he celebrated the 30th year anniversary of  
42 the "Meredith March Against Fear" by promoting and using his theme  
43 "Black Man's March to the Library" in which Meredith visited 53  
44 libraries and towns, meeting with parents and community leaders on  
45 the 225-mile trek from Memphis to Jackson encouraging the use of  
46 the library. The promotion ended with a Birthday Celebration on  
47 June 25, 1996; and

48 WHEREAS, Dr. James Howard Meredith called for a "March for  
49 Education" in the Summer of 1998. He visited 42 towns and  
50 counties throughout the State of Mississippi introducing his  
51 literacy program on reading, writing and speaking proper English.  
52 The march ended on September 20, 1998, in Oxford, Mississippi; and

53 WHEREAS, Dr. James Howard Meredith continues to carry his  
54 literacy program to communities and schools in Mississippi,  
55 organizing educational communities throughout Mississippi for the  
56 betterment of Mississippians; and

57 WHEREAS, Dr. James Howard Meredith has written over 22 books  
58 and edited over 5 videos pertaining to the State of Mississippi:  
59 "*Three Years in Mississippi*," a volume of 11 books; *Queen Attala:*  
60 *Ancient Mississippi before 1540, My Native Land: The Choctaw*



61 Nation - 1540 to 1830; Yockanookany: The History of Attala  
62 County, Mississippi; The Father of White Supremacy - 1830 to 1917;  
63 An Old Man: Thinking of Younger Days; Letters: To My Unborn  
64 Grandchildren; Dancing Rabbit: The Destruction of the Choctaw  
65 Nation; James Meredith vs. Ole Miss - 1960 to 1963; J.H. Is Born;  
66 Japan: As Seen Through the Eyes of a Black Man; Me and My Kind:  
67 An Oral History with James Meredith; Captain Meredith: A  
68 Biography of My Father - 1891 to 1965; The Meredith Primer: The  
69 First Book of Reading; The James H. Meredith Old Fashion Spelling  
70 Book; History of the South: 1512 to 1840 - The Extermination of  
71 the Native People of the South; My life story - The First 50 years  
72 of Being Black (booklet); What Every Black Family Ought to Know  
73 About the Library:

74 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
75 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby recognize, honor and commend Dr.  
76 James Howard Meredith in celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the  
77 Historical Desegregation of the University of Mississippi, and  
78 that October 1, 2002, the 40th Anniversary of the Desegregation of  
79 the University of Mississippi be declared "Dr. James H. Meredith  
80 Day" in Mississippi.

81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
82 Dr. James Meredith, be forwarded to the Governor and the Secretary  
83 of State, and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

