

By: Senator(s) Johnson (19th)

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 1

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 St. Petersburg, Florida
11 High School in 1951 and serving nine years in the United States
12 Air Force earning the rank of Sergeant First Class as a Clerical
13 Trainee Supervisor for the Tokyo Japanese civilians working at
14 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



28 is 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, Dr. Meredith started a voter registration march
33 which was to be from Memphis to Jackson that ended up registering
34 over 300,000 registered voters that later became known as the
35 "Meredith March Against Fear." During the march, Meredith
36 received three shotgun blasts from a would-be assassin. After
37 Meredith was wounded, Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. continued the march
38 for Meredith which led to his stay in Mississippi for two weeks,
39 and Meredith, after recuperating in Canton, Mississippi, rejoined
40 the march and brought the march to Jackson ending on June 26,
41 1966; and

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

