

By: Senator(s) Jordan, Johnson (38th),
Walls, Frazier, Simmons, Turner, Dawkins,
Furniss, Blackmon, Nunnelee, Smith,
Williamson, Gollott, Tollison, Browning,
Dearing, Jackson, Minor, Harden

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 62

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE ILLUSTRIOUS SOCIAL SERVICE CAREER
2 OF LEGENDARY CLEVELAND BROWN FOOTBALL RUNNING BACK JIM BROWN AND
3 RECOGNIZING HIM AS FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF THE AMER-I-CAN PROGRAM
4 THAT TEACHES RESPONSIBILITY AND SELF-DETERMINATION.

5 WHEREAS, James Nathaniel Brown was born in 1936 at St. Simons
6 Island on the southern Georgia coastline. He was raised by his
7 grandmother until age 7, when he joined his mother near Long
8 Island, New York. He later enrolled in nearby Manhasset High
9 School, where his sensational athletic career began averaging 14.9
10 yards per carry on the football field and 38 points on the
11 basketball court; and

12 WHEREAS, Jim Brown was educated at Syracuse University, where
13 he was named as an All-American running back, averaging 6.2 yards
14 in his senior year and later was inducted into the College
15 Football Hall of Fame. He was also an All-American in Lacrosse
16 and is considered one of the best players ever in that sport. Jim
17 Brown also excelled academically and was honored as one of five
18 recipients of the "NCAA Silver Anniversary Outstanding Students of
19 the Past 25 Years"; and

20 WHEREAS, Jim Brown played professional football with the
21 Cleveland Browns from 1957 to 1966. During his illustrious and
22 legendary career, Mr. Brown established many records, including a
23 one-year career total of 12,312 yards gained. His 5.2 yards per
24 carry average has never been broken. He was inducted into the NFL
25 Hall of Fame and is considered by many as the greatest running
26 back in football history. He retired at the peak of his
27 professional football career after winning the NFL Championship
28 and MVP of the League to become a motion picture actor; and



29 WHEREAS, as a screen actor, Mr. Brown has appeared in over 20
30 motion pictures, including The Dirty Dozen (1967), El Condor
31 (1970), Slaughter and Black Gunn (1972), Original Gangsta's (1996)
32 and Mars Attacks (1996); and

33 WHEREAS, in 1966, he and some of the finest African-American
34 minds in the country formally established the NIEU, from which
35 over 100 African-American businesses benefited from the Union's
36 capital support and expertise; and

37 WHEREAS, in 1980, Jim Brown set his aspirations toward
38 helping empower the disenfranchised, and became involved with Coor
39 Golden Door and Barriers, both job creation programs for
40 ex-convicts to properly reintroduce them to society's mainstream;
41 and

42 WHEREAS, in 1988, Jim Brown founded and became President of
43 the Amer-I-Can Program, Inc. The core of the program is a
44 self-esteem/life management skills curriculum that teaches
45 responsibility and self-determination. Combined with a strong
46 aftercare component, the Amer-I-Can Program is considered as a
47 premium prevention and intervention tool in reaching the "hard
48 core" and the at-risk population. A powerful weapon in
49 accomplishing this task is that 95% of the Amer-I-Can staff is
50 composed of former gang members and/or ex-convicts. Mr. Brown's
51 Herculean efforts helped keep peace among warring gang sets during
52 the Los Angeles uprising; and

53 WHEREAS, Amer-I-Can operations have been in Schools, Adult
54 and Juvenile Correctional Facilities and Communities in
55 California, Oregon, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Nevada, Colorado,
56 Louisiana, Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska and Florida. Tens of
57 thousands of correctional inmates, law enforcement officers,
58 students, community residents and others have been trained; and

59 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize and welcome
60 to our state this legendary football star who has channeled his
61 energy and fame into extending intervention services to inner-city



62 juveniles and their families who are normally deprived of such
63 services because of economic hardship:

64 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
65 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the illustrious social
66 service career of legendary Cleveland Brown football running back
67 Jim Brown, and recognize him as founder and President of the
68 Amer-I-Can Program, Inc., that teaches responsibility and
69 self-determination for at-risk juveniles, and extend to him our
70 welcome to the State of Mississippi and best wishes for future
71 successes.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
73 Jim Brown and representatives of The Amer-I-Can Program, and be
74 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

