

By: Representatives Whittington, Thomas,
Clarke, Perkins

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 65

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS
2 OF THE "KING OF THE BLUES," MISSISSIPPI'S B. B. KING, AND
3 ACKNOWLEDGING HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, the Blues' foremost artist, by anybody's standard,
5 is Mississippi's favorite son, B. B. King, and the guitar master
6 has the licks and the hits to prove it; and

7 WHEREAS, from the 1940s to present day, there has been only
8 one King of the Blues, Riley B. King, affectionately known as
9 B. B. King, who has released over 50 albums, sold more than 40
10 million records worldwide, won 13 Grammys, performed in more than
11 90 countries and honored by presidents and kings alike; and

12 WHEREAS, born Riley B. King on September 16, 1925, on a
13 cotton plantation in Berclair, outside Itta Bena, Mississippi,
14 known for his humility, work ethic, perseverance and heart, he
15 acquired the name, "B. B.," which stood for Beale Street Blues Boy
16 or just Blues Boy, while performing in Memphis; and

17 WHEREAS, with dazzling perseverance, B. B. King, who is
18 envied by musicians internationally, continues to blaze new trails
19 into the uncharted territories of the musical industry, by
20 exhibiting an insurmountable dedication to his musical career
21 which has made him one of the most prominent figures within the
22 Blues genre for more than half a century; and

23 WHEREAS, along with his legendary guitar, "Lucille," B. B.
24 continues touring extensively, averaging over 250 concerts per
25 year around the world, giving him rightful claim to the title of
26 "King of the Blues," which is most befitting, as he has long
27 established himself in the majestic palaces of the world's stage

28 as a musical icon, lifting the Blues from the confines of the
29 American South and delivering it to a worldwide audience; and
30 WHEREAS, despite having an illustrious career and appearing
31 in some of the world's most eminent venues, B. B. King is a proud
32 ambassador of his home state, and Mississippi is even prouder of
33 this native son whose achievements include: Blues Foundation Hall
34 of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame; Lifetime Achievement
35 Award from the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences;
36 Presidential Medal of the Arts; Kennedy Center Honors; National
37 Heritage Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts; honorary
38 doctorate degrees from Yale, Berklee College of Music, Rhodes
39 College, Tougaloo College and Mississippi Valley State University;
40 National Award of Distinction from the University of Mississippi;
41 Hollywood Walk of Fame; Amsterdam (Holland) Walk of Fame; 13
42 Grammys, including two in 2003 and still counting; Songwriters'
43 Hall of Fame, Lifetime Achievement Award; and the 2004 recipient
44 of the Polar Music Prize, the musical equivalent of the Nobel
45 Prize, presented by King Carl XVI Gustav of Sweden; and

46 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the
47 legendary Mr. King, who has served with distinction as an
48 ambassador for the State of Mississippi, bringing honor to his
49 home community, region and state:

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
51 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
52 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the career of the "King of the
53 Blues," Mississippi's B. B. King, declaring Tuesday, February 15,
54 2005, as B. B. King Day in the Legislature, and extend to him our
55 best wishes for success in all his future endeavors.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
57 furnished to B. B. King and to the members of the Capitol Press
58 Corps.