

By: Senator(s) Jordan, Simmons, Gollott,  
Thomas, Jackson (11th), Butler, Frazier,  
Mettetal, Gordon, Hewes, Williamson,  
Carmichael, Davis, Kirby, Turner, Pickering,  
Harvey, Posey, Morgan, Michel, Chaney,  
Dawkins, Doxey, White, Wilemon, Tollison,  
King, Cuevas, Browning, Flowers, Hyde-Smith,  
Huggins, Horhn, Lee (47th), Walley, Dearing,  
Harden, Brown, Jackson (32nd), Little,  
Robertson

To: Rules

## SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 534

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CAREER OF THE "KING OF  
2 THE BLUES" MISSISSIPPI'S B.B. KING AND EXTENDING THE BEST WISHES  
3 OF THE LEGISLATURE AS HE NEARS HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY.

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, with dazzling perseverance, B.B. King again and  
8 again has broken new ground, remaining at the forefront as perhaps  
9 the Blues' greatest pioneer; and

10 WHEREAS, from the 1940's to present day, there has only been  
11 one King of the Blues, Riley B King, affectionately known as B.B.  
12 King. He has released over fifty albums, sold more than four  
13 million records, won thirteen Grammys, performed in more than  
14 ninety countries, been honored by presidents and kings alike - and  
15 he's not done yet; and

16 WHEREAS, his career is hotter than ever as he approaches his  
17 80th birthday in 2005, performing more often than many artists  
18 half his age; and

19 WHEREAS, he was born on a cotton plantation in Berclair  
20 outside Itta Bena, Mississippi, and is known for his humility,  
21 work ethic, perseverance and heart. He is envied by musicians  
22 internationally. Beatle John Lennon once said "I wish I could  
23 play the guitar like B.B. King"; and

24 WHEREAS, he acquired the name "B.B." while performing in  
25 Memphis. It stood for Beale Street Blues Boy or just Blues Boy,  
26 which everyone shortened to B.B.; and

27           WHEREAS, King's total dedication to his music, a rich  
28 recording history and tireless touring lasting more than half a  
29 century have made him one of the most prominent figures within the  
30 Blues. Through his achievements in spreading the Blues throughout  
31 the world, he has, as a leading proponent of his music, proved of  
32 fundamental importance to the development of modern popular music;  
33 and

34           WHEREAS, B.B. King is known as the "King of the Blues" and  
35 for half a century has been one of the absolute foremost figures  
36 in his music genre. King has lifted the Blues from the confines  
37 of the American South and brought it to a huge audience the world  
38 over. But, no matter where he appears in the world, B.B. King is  
39 a proud ambassador of his home state, and Mississippi is even  
40 prouder of this native son; and

41           WHEREAS, B.B.'s achievements are as follows: Blues  
42 Foundation Hall of Fame and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame; Lifetime  
43 Achievement Award from the National Academy of Recording Arts and  
44 Sciences; Presidential Medal of the Arts; Kennedy Center Honors;  
45 National Heritage Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts;  
46 honorary doctorate degrees: Yale, Berklee College of Music,  
47 Rhodes College, Tougaloo College and Mississippi Valley State  
48 University; Hollywood Walk of Fame; Amsterdam (Holland) Walk of  
49 Fame; 13 Grammys, including two in 2003 and still counting;  
50 Songwriters' Hall of Fame, Lifetime Achievement Award; influenced  
51 the work of countless international artists: Eric Clapton, Jeff  
52 Beck, Stevie Ray Vaughan, among many others; performed for fans in  
53 90 countries, and the list grows every year; sold over 40 million  
54 records worldwide and still counting; and the 2004 recipient of  
55 the Polar Music Prize, the musical equivalent of the Nobel Prize,  
56 presented by King Carl XVI Gustav of Sweden; and

57           WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this Blues  
58 legend who has served with distinction as an ambassador for the

59 State of Mississippi, bringing honor to his home community, region  
60 and state:

61 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
62 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
63 we do hereby commend the career of the "King of the Blues,"  
64 Mississippi's B.B. King, declaring Tuesday, February 15, 2005, as  
65 "B.B. King Day" in the Legislature, and extend to him the best  
66 wishes of the Legislature as he nears his 80th birthday.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
68 B.B. King at ceremonies at the New Capitol and be made available  
69 to the Capitol Press Corps.