

By: Senator(s) Walls, Simmons, Horhn,
Harden, Thomas, Jordan, Butler, Williamson,
Jackson (11th), Turner, Frazier, Albritton,
Burton, Chaney, Davis, Dawkins, Dearing,
Fillingane, Gollott, Gordon, Posey, Ross,
White, Wilemon

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 518

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND ARTISTIC
2 CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE "GODFATHER OF SOUL" JAMES BROWN, AND
3 EXTENDING THE SYMPATHY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

4 WHEREAS, amazing rhythm and blues pioneer James Brown, the
5 "Godfather of Soul," whose fiery hits "Papa's Got A Brand New
6 Bag," "I Got You (I Feel Good)," "Please, Please, Please," "Say It
7 Loud-I'm Black and I'm Proud," "Mother Popcorn," "Superbad," "Cold
8 Sweat," "Get Up Offa That Thing" and "Living In America" defined
9 the music of two generations and appealed to all races, passed
10 away on Christmas Day, December 25, 2006, at age 73; and

11 WHEREAS, from the 1950s, when Brown had his first R&B hit,
12 "Please, Please, Please" in 1956, through the mid-1970s, Brown
13 went on a frenzy of cross-country tours, concerts and new songs.
14 He earned the nickname "The Hardest Working Man in Show Business"
15 and often tried to prove it to his fans; and

16 WHEREAS, James Brown made young black Americans feel "proud."
17 His stage act was as memorable, and as imitated as his records,
18 with his twirls and spins and flowing cape, his repeated faints to
19 the floor at the end as band members tried in vain to get him to
20 leave the stage; and

21 WHEREAS, born in poverty in Barnwell, South Carolina, in
22 1933, Brown was abandoned as a four-year-old to the care of
23 relatives and friends. He grew up on the streets of Augusta,
24 Georgia, in an "ill-repute area," as he once called it, where he
25 learned how to hustle to survive; and

26 WHEREAS, Brown was performing to the end, and giving back to
27 his community. Three days before his death, he joined volunteers

28 at his annual toy giveaway in Augusta, and he planned to perform
29 on New Year's Eve at B.B. King's Blues Club in New York; and

30 WHEREAS, James Brown's nicknames included "Soul Brother
31 Number One," "the Godfather of Soul," "the Hardest Working Man in
32 Show Business," "the Exalted Ruler of Rhythm and Blues" and "Mr.
33 Dynamite"; and

34 WHEREAS, to ease tension in the days after the 1968
35 assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., Brown went on the air at
36 a Boston radio station and sang through the night in an effort to
37 defuse riots; and

38 WHEREAS, he had more than 119 singles making the charts and
39 recorded more than 50 albums. Every record he made during
40 1960-1977 reached the Top 100; and

41 WHEREAS, James Brown changed music. The release of "James
42 Brown, Live at the Apollo Theatre," Volumes 1 and 2, in 1963 was a
43 landmark musical event which was embraced by young Americans of
44 all races for its mixture of blues, jazz and exciting rhythms; and

45 WHEREAS, James Brown was one of the first artists inducted
46 into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, along with Elvis Presley,
47 Chuck Berry and other founding fathers. He made soul music a
48 world music; and

49 WHEREAS, James Brown made numerous live concert appearances
50 in the State of Mississippi, including exciting performances on
51 the campus of Jackson State University, and headliner shows for
52 the Jubilee Jam Festival in Jackson, Mississippi; and

53 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of this
54 musical icon who cast a long shadow, made us all "feel good like
55 we knew that he would," and served as a role model for all
56 musicians:

57 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
58 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
59 we do hereby commend the life and artistic contributions of rhythm
60 and blues pioneer James Brown, "The Godfather of Soul," and extend

61 to his surviving family the sympathy of the Legislature on his
62 passing.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted
64 to the surviving family of James Brown and be made available to
65 the Capitol Press Corps.