

By: Representative Baker

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 32

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION FORMALLY REQUESTING THE JOINT
2 COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS TO APPROVE THE REPLACEMENT OF
3 THE STATUE OF JAMES ZACHARIAH GEORGE THAT IS DISPLAYED IN STATUARY
4 HALL IN THE CAPITOL OF THE UNITED STATES WITH A STATUE OF BLUES
5 LEGEND B.B. KING.

6 WHEREAS, the National Statuary Hall Collection in the United
7 States Capitol is comprised of 100 statues contributed by 50
8 states to honor persons notable in each state's history; and

9 WHEREAS, thirty-five statues are now displayed in National
10 Statuary Hall while others have been placed in other parts of the
11 Capitol, including the Crypt, the Hall of Columns, and the Capitol
12 Visitor Center; and

13 WHEREAS, Mississippi has representational statues of
14 Jefferson Davis and James Zachariah George displayed, which were
15 crafted by Augustus Lukeman and dedicated in 1931; and

16 WHEREAS, Jefferson Davis, who authored *Rise and Fall of the*
17 *Confederated States*, served in the United States House of
18 Representatives and the United States Senate, was President of the



19 Confederate States, and eventually made his home at Beauvoir, near
20 Biloxi, Mississippi; and

21 WHEREAS, James Zachariah George, Mississippi's "Great
22 Commoner," was a Confederate colonel who served on the Mississippi
23 Supreme Court and represented Mississippi in the United States
24 Senate, helped frame the future Sherman Anti-Trust Act, served as
25 a member of the Mississippi Constitutional Convention of 1890 and
26 successfully defended the constitution before the Senate and the
27 Supreme Court; and

28 WHEREAS, both men are important figures who reflect similar
29 times, but do not necessarily reflect the unified and progressive
30 spirit encompassing the Mississippi of today, as it is
31 Mississippi's sentimental desire to respect and celebrate the past
32 while honoring its evolution from past icons to present icons; and

33 WHEREAS, world renowned icon and highly acclaimed blues
34 legend Riley Benjamin King, better known as B.B. King, was born in
35 Itta Bena, Mississippi, and defined blues for a worldwide
36 audience, while releasing over 50 albums since the 1940s; and

37 WHEREAS, this notable Mississippian, who developed the
38 world's most identifiable guitar styles, was inducted into the
39 Blues Foundation Hall of Fame, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame,
40 earned numerous awards and distinctions, owned three clubs and
41 restaurants in Tennessee, New York and Los Angeles, and toured
42 extensively averaging 250 concerts per year around the world until
43 health issues impeded his ability to do so; and



44 WHEREAS, 2 U.S.C. Section 2132 allows a state to request the
45 Joint Committee on the Library of Congress to approve the removal
46 of a previously placed statue from the collection and the
47 replacement of it with an equally suitable and socially inclusive
48 display representative of the entirety of the state's diverse
49 citizenry; and

50 WHEREAS, a request from a state for replacement may only be
51 considered if the request has been approved by resolution adopted
52 by the Legislature of the state and the request has been approved
53 by the Governor of the state, and the statue to be replaced has
54 been displayed in the Capitol for at least 10 years at the time
55 the request is made, unless the Joint Committee waives this
56 requirement for cause at the request of a state; and

57 WHEREAS, if the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress
58 approves a request, the architect of the Capitol shall enter into
59 an agreement with the state to carry out the replacement in
60 accordance with the request and any conditions that the Joint
61 Committee may require for its approval, and such agreement shall
62 provide that the new statue shall be subject to the same
63 conditions and restrictions as applied to any statue provided by a
64 state under 2 U.S.C. Section 2131 and the state shall pay any
65 costs related to the replacement, including costs in connection
66 with the design, construction, transportation, and placement of
67 the new statue, the removal and transportation of the statue being
68 replaced and any unveiling ceremony; and



69 WHEREAS, several states have chosen to replace existing
70 statues, thereby including representations of Dwight Eisenhower,
71 Ronald Reagan, Gerald Ford, Thomas Edison and Helen Keller; and

72 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislature desires to replace the
73 statue of James Zachariah George with a statue of blues legend
74 B.B. King, to reflect the transformative power of Mississippi from
75 its past to its present; and

76 WHEREAS, we request the Governor of the State of Mississippi
77 to affirm the efforts of this Legislature by issuing a
78 proclamation or statement approving the request for the
79 replacement of the statue, and to create a commission of
80 Mississippi artisans and artists who are authorized to solicit and
81 collect private contributions for the creation and placement of
82 the B.B. King statue; and

83 WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon this Legislature to pursue the
84 interests of its citizens by ensuring that statues representing
85 our state wholly depict the astounding strides made by all
86 citizens, particularly in this instance when the state itself
87 bears the moniker of being the "birthplace of America's music" and
88 there has been no better ambassador of our state than the
89 distinguished and incomparable B.B. King:

90 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
91 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
92 THEREIN, That we do hereby submit this formal request to the Joint
93 Committee on the Library of Congress to approve the replacement of



94 the Statue of James Zachariah George with a statue of blues legend
95 Riley Benjamin "B.B." King in the Statuary Hall of the United
96 States Capitol.

97 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
98 furnished to the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress, to
99 the members of the Mississippi Congressional delegation and to the
100 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

