

By: Representative Banks

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 58

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE OF
2 MR. JOHNNY "BOOTS" MORROW AND HIS DEDICATION TO PRESERVING
3 MISSISSIPPI'S UNIQUE AND DIVERSE HISTORY IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
4 HIS MUSEUM, "THE ROOM," IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

5 WHEREAS, Johnny "Boots" Morrow established "The Room," a
6 museum in Jackson, Mississippi, that has preserved some of
7 Mississippi's most interesting and fascinating history; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Morrow purchased the 52,000 square foot building
9 that once housed Independent Linen Service Company to have a place
10 for his many cars, and once he realized how much space was
11 available in the building, he began attending garage sales and
12 estate sales to collect unique and historical odds and ends to
13 fill the space; and

14 WHEREAS, the museum pays homage to many different parts of
15 Mississippi's diverse history, including the former employees of
16 Independent Linen Service Company, a linen cleaning and pressing
17 service that was established in 1931 where hundreds of
18 African-American workers earned less than \$1.00 an hour as they
19 cleaned and pressed uniforms for the Jackson Police Department,



20 Mississippi Highway Patrol, churches and numerous other
21 organizations; and

22 WHEREAS, in honoring these employees, Mr. Morrow has
23 recognized the impact that they have had on future generations of
24 their family, including their children and grandchildren who were
25 able to tremendously succeed, becoming doctors, lawyers and even
26 professional sports stars, such as NBA star Monta Ellis, whose
27 grandmother was among the many employees at Independent Linen
28 Service Company; and

29 WHEREAS, featuring dozens of vintage automobiles, including a
30 car that his uncle built and other automobiles that have appeared
31 in Hollywood films such as "The Help" and the James Brown biopic
32 "Get on Up," the museum also boasts a 1958 white Cadillac that Mr.
33 Morrow determined once belonged to former Texas Governor, John
34 Connally, and that was the sixth vehicle in the motorcade on
35 November 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas, when President Kennedy was
36 assassinated; and

37 WHEREAS, Mr. Morrow has accumulated some fascinating odds and
38 ends through his searching at garage sales and estate sales,
39 including a dancing James Brown doll, skeletons that pluck banjos,
40 a baseball bat signed by the legendary Jackie Robinson and
41 original concert posters of Elmore James, Howlin' Wolf and Etta
42 James, and Mr. Morrow has also created sections of the museum to
43 honor preachers, graduates of his alma mater, Lanier High School,



44 African-American musicians of the 1940s and 1950s, sharecroppers
45 and the State of Mississippi; and

46 WHEREAS, Mr. Morrow has also collected some outstanding film
47 from the Civil Rights Movement such as video footage of the 1966
48 Meredith March that included civil rights leaders Martin Luther
49 King, Jr., James Meredith and Stokely Carmichael, and 1960s-era
50 footage of law enforcement officers training for civil rights
51 protests; and

52 WHEREAS, not only does the museum have many unique items from
53 Mississippi history, it also contains a room having a 30 by 20
54 foot video screen, where groups are able to hold parties and watch
55 sporting events; and

56 WHEREAS, many famous celebrities such as Muhammad Ali, Dan
57 Aykroyd, Snoop Dogg, and Morgan Freeman have frequented "The
58 Room," and all one has to do to visit is to call Mr. Morrow, who
59 is willing to not only exhibit these gems but also share the
60 stories behind them; and

61 WHEREAS, Mr. Morrow has noted that many people have told him
62 that his museum is the jewel of Mississippi, but he believes that
63 the unique and captivating items that he has collected represent
64 everyone's history and should be shared with all Mississippians;
65 and

66 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to commend fine
67 Mississippians such as Mr. Johnny "Bootsy" Morrow, who have



68 brought honor to the State of Mississippi through his dedication
69 to preserving Mississippi's vastly unique history:

70 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
71 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
72 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend Mr. Johnny "Bootsy" Morrow on
73 the establishment of his outstanding museum, "The Room," in
74 Jackson, Mississippi, that reflects and preserves the unique and
75 diverse history of Mississippi.

76 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
77 furnished to Mr. Johnny "Bootsy" Morrow and to the members of the
78 Capitol Press Corps.

