

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Burton, Dearing,  
Frazier, Jackson (32nd)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 609

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

5 WHEREAS, Johnny "Bootsy" 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 the Independent Linen Service Company, a linen cleaning and  
17 pressing 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,  
24 including their children and grandchildren who were able to  
25 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 the 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. 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  
54 30-by-20-foot video screen, where groups are able to hold parties  
55 and watch sporting events; and

56 WHEREAS, many famous celebrities such as Muhammad Ali, Dan  
57 Aykroyd, Snoop Dogg and Morgan Freeman have frequented "The Room,"  
58 and all one has to do to visit his museum is to call Mr. Morrow,  
59 who 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 with great pride that we recognize this  
67 citizen, who has brought honor to the State of Mississippi through  
68 his dedication to preserving Mississippi's vastly unique history:



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

75           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
76 Mr. Johnny "Bootsy" Morrow and made available to the Capitol Press  
77 Corps.

