

By: Senator(s) Jackson (11th), Burton,
Frazier, Jackson (32nd)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 656

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION JOINING THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
2 IN COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1968 "MULE TRAIN-POOR
3 PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN MARCH" FROM MARKS, MISSISSIPPI, TO WASHINGTON,
4 D.C.

5 WHEREAS, fifty years ago in April 1968, Martin Luther King,
6 Jr., was scheduled to lead 28 wagons pulled by mules in a caravan
7 from poverty-stricken Marks, Mississippi, to the nation's Capitol.
8 While the Civil Rights Icon's assassination delayed the Mule
9 Train, the Campaign for jobs and justice did eventually make its
10 1,000-mile, monthlong trek from Quitman County to Pennsylvania
11 Avenue; and

12 WHEREAS, as part of a yearlong monthly series of events
13 commemorating the anniversary of that historic event, The
14 University of Mississippi is hosting a National Conference for
15 academicians and other interested people. "Honoring the 50th
16 Anniversary of the 1968 Mule Train-Poor People's Campaign by
17 Implementing Classroom Theory in Marks, Mississippi," will be held
18 March 28-29, 2018, at various locations on campus and in Marks.
19 The university's McLean Institute for Public Service and Community



20 Engagement, Center for Population Studies and the Department of
21 Sociology and Anthropology are co-sponsors; and

22 WHEREAS, community engagement through community-based
23 participatory research is essential for more equitable approaches
24 to social and economic development. To advance the intent of the
25 Mule Train will improve well-being, connect the talents and
26 resources of community changemakers, and the faculty, staff and
27 students working through the university; and

28 WHEREAS, the 50th Anniversary observance began in Marks in
29 May 2017, and will conclude there in May 2018. Each month honors
30 different Mule Train participants and highlights their
31 contribution to the campaign. A week of special events is
32 scheduled for May 13-18 in Marks to end the observance. Former
33 U.S. Representative Andrew Young, Jr., is scheduled to speak at
34 the closing ceremony. An early leader in the Civil Rights
35 Movement, Young served as Executive Director of the Southern
36 Christian Leadership Conference and a close confidant of King. He
37 later became active in politics, serving first as a Congressman
38 from Georgia, then U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and
39 finally Mayor of Atlanta. Other organizations behind the 50th
40 Anniversary observance are the Quitman County Development
41 Organization, Inc., Marks Project, Marks Historical Society, the
42 Mule and Blues Fest, the Mule Train Museum Project, SCLC, the
43 Reclaimed Project, Alcorn State University Agriculture Extension
44 Services, the Tougaloo College Farmers Project, the Mississippi



45 State University Downtown Project and the Mississippi Valley State
46 University Rural Farm Policy Program; and

47 WHEREAS, each generation looks at history from a different
48 perspective. Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable.
49 It is with great reverence that the State of Mississippi join the
50 commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Dr. King's assassination
51 and the "Mule Train March":

52 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
53 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
54 we do hereby join The University of Mississippi in commemorating
55 the 50th Anniversary of the 1968 "Mule Train-Poor People's
56 Campaign March" from Marks, Mississippi, to Washington, D.C.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage The University of
58 Mississippi and the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum to coordinate
59 appropriate events and educational programs to bring attention to
60 this important historic landmark.

61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted
62 to The University of Mississippi and the Mississippi Civil Rights
63 Museum, and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

