

By: Representative Carpenter

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 675

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 DESIGNATE AUGUST 1 AS "GOLD STAR CHILDREN'S DAY" TO RECOGNIZE AND  
3 HONOR THE CHILDREN OF UNITED STATES SOLDIERS THAT HAVE BEEN LOST  
4 IN COMBAT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

5 WHEREAS, the history of Gold Star Families began in the  
6 United States shortly after World War I, to provide support for  
7 mothers who lost sons or daughters in the war; and

8 WHEREAS, the reference to the gold star comes from the custom  
9 of families of servicemen or servicewomen hanging a service flag  
10 in the window of their homes displaying a gold star for those who  
11 have perished while serving in the line of duty in the Armed  
12 Forces; and

13 WHEREAS, the families of fallen soldiers have made a  
14 tremendous sacrifice on behalf of our country and should never be  
15 forgotten, and because of this, the United States began observing  
16 Gold Star Mothers Day on the last Sunday in September in 1936, and  
17 Gold Star Spouses Day is observed on April 5th; and

18 WHEREAS, children who have parents in the military have  
19 always had an important role throughout the United States Armed



20 Forces community, and it is most often the children that carry on  
21 their parents legacy and tell stories of the ultimate sacrifice  
22 that their father or mother made for the freedoms of our nation;  
23 and

24 WHEREAS, currently, there is no date dedicated to the  
25 children of America's fallen soldiers, and all members of Gold  
26 Star families deserve to be recognized by our local, state and  
27 national leaders for their sacrifices and for their dedicated and  
28 patriotic support of the United States; and

29 WHEREAS, the Mississippi Legislature desires to recognize and  
30 honor children of United States soldiers that have been lost in  
31 combat, and encourages all Mississippians to honor families whose  
32 loved ones have made the ultimate sacrifice so that we could  
33 continue to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;

34 NOW, THEREFORE,

35 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

36 **SECTION 1.** Section 3-3-7, Mississippi Code of 1972, is  
37 amended as follows:

38 3-3-7. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2)  
39 of this section, the following are declared to be legal  
40 holidays \* \* \*:

41 (a) The first day of January, designated as New Year's  
42 Day;

43 (b) The third Monday of January, designated as Dr.  
44 Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday and Robert E. Lee's birthday;



45           (c) The third Monday of February, designated as George  
46 Washington's birthday;

47           (d) The last Monday of April, designated as Confederate  
48 Memorial Day;

49           (e) The last Monday of May, designated as both National  
50 Memorial Day and Jefferson Davis' birthday;

51           (f) The fourth day of July, designated as Independence  
52 Day;

53           (g) The first Monday of September, designated as Labor  
54 Day;

55           (h) The eleventh day of November, designated as  
56 Armistice or Veterans' Day;

57           (i) The day fixed by proclamation by the Governor of  
58 Mississippi as a day of Thanksgiving, which shall be fixed to  
59 correspond to the date proclaimed by the President of the United  
60 States, designated as Thanksgiving Day; and

61           (j) The twenty-fifth day of December, designated as  
62 Christmas Day.

63           \* \* \* If any legal holiday \* \* \* falls on a Sunday, then the  
64 next following day shall be a legal holiday.

65           (2) In lieu of any one (1) legal holiday provided for in  
66 subsection (1) of this section, with the exception of the third  
67 Monday in January, designated as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s  
68 birthday and Robert E. Lee's birthday, and the eleventh day of  
69 November, designated as Armistice or Veterans' Day, the governing



70 authorities of any municipality or county may declare, by order  
71 spread upon its minutes, Mardi Gras Day or any one (1) other day  
72 during the year, to be a legal holiday.

73 (3) August 16 is declared to be Elvis Aaron Presley Day in  
74 recognition and appreciation of Elvis Aaron Presley's many  
75 contributions, international recognition and the rich legacy left  
76 to us by Elvis Aaron Presley. This day shall be a day of  
77 recognition and observation and shall not be recognized as a legal  
78 holiday.

79 (4) August 1 is declared to be "Gold Star Children's Day" to  
80 recognize and honor the children of United States soldiers that  
81 have been lost in combat, and to pay tribute to these American  
82 heroes whose dedication and service to the United States protects  
83 the freedoms of our country.

84 ( \* \* \*5) May 8 is declared to be Hernando de Soto Day in  
85 recognition, observation and commemoration of Hernando de Soto,  
86 who led the first and most imposing expedition ever made by  
87 Europeans into the wilds of North America and the State of  
88 Mississippi, and in further recognition of the Spanish explorer's  
89 187-day journey from the Tombigbee River basin on our state's  
90 eastern boundary, westward to the place of discovery of the  
91 Mississippi River on May 8, 1541. This day shall be a day of  
92 commemoration, recognition and observation of Hernando de Soto and  
93 European exploration and shall not be recognized as a legal  
94 holiday.



95 ( \* \* \*6) Armistice \* \* \* or Veterans'\_ Day shall be observed  
96 by appropriate exercises in all the public schools in the State of  
97 Mississippi. The superintendent of schools of each public school  
98 district is authorized to provide for the appearance of uniformed  
99 military personnel, uniformed veterans or the families of fallen  
100 military personnel/veterans at such public school exercises in  
101 honor of Armistice \* \* \* or Veterans'\_ Day. The superintendent of  
102 schools is also authorized to permit the school band and its  
103 director(s) at any public school in the district to perform at  
104 Armistice \* \* \* or Veterans'\_ Day exercises in the school district  
105 upon the request of public officials or veterans associations  
106 without loss of any program credit by participating students and  
107 without loss of leave by participating school personnel.

108 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
109 and after July 1, 2022.

