

By: Representatives Karriem, Stamps, Taylor, To: Rules
Faulkner, Brown (70th), Clark, Osborne,
Porter, Summers, Thompson, Young

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 56

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION APOLOGIZING FOR THE ROLE MISSISSIPPI
2 PLAYED IN THE MURDER OF EMMETT TILL AND THE ACQUITTAL OF HIS
3 KILLERS.

4 WHEREAS, on August 28, 1955, Emmett Till, a 14-year-old
5 African-American teenager from Argo, Illinois, who was visiting
6 his great-uncle in Money, Mississippi, found himself the target of
7 false implications, which ultimately resulted in his kidnapping,
8 bludgeoning, and brutal murder; and

9 WHEREAS, after Till's beaten, broken, disfigured and drenched
10 body was recovered from the Tallahatchie River, it was returned to
11 Illinois, where his mother, Mamie Till Bradley, insisted on an
12 open casket so that the world could witness the horrendous nature
13 of her son's killing; and

14 WHEREAS, in light of Carolyn Bryant's recent confession that
15 her inflammatory story, which led to the death of young Emmett
16 Till, was fabricated, Mississippi must now apologize for creating
17 an environment conducive to the torture and murder of Emmett Till,



18 the crime's defense by many Mississippi citizens and leaders, and
19 the shameful acquittal of the murderers; and

20 WHEREAS, the principles espoused by the founding fathers
21 would be affirmed, great strides toward unifying all
22 Mississippians and inspiring the nation would be accomplished if
23 our state acknowledged its role in the murder of Emmett Till and
24 the acquittal of his killers:

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
26 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
27 THEREIN, That we express our profound regret for the State of
28 Mississippi's role in providing an environment of hostile beliefs
29 and ideologies that led to the horrific, unnecessary murder of
30 14-year-old Emmett Till and offer our apologies for the part
31 Mississippi played in acquitting his murderers, and we express
32 deepest sympathy and solemn regrets to Emmett Till's family for
33 depriving him of his life, human dignity and those constitutional
34 protections meant to be accorded to all citizens of the United
35 States, and we encourage the remembrance and teachings about the
36 history of the Civil Rights Movement, particularly that of Emmett
37 Till's cruel death and legacy of injustice, to ensure such
38 tragedies will neither be forgotten nor repeated.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of it is the intent of
40 the House of Representatives and Senate that this resolution shall
41 not be used in, or be the basis of, any type of litigation.



42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
43 furnished to each state-elected official of Mississippi; the
44 Commissioner of Institutions of Higher Learning; the President of
45 the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,
46 Mississippi Chapter; and the Director of the Southern Christian
47 Leadership Conference, Mississippi Chapter, requesting that they
48 further disseminate copies of this resolution to their respective
49 constituents so as to apprise them of the sense of regret the
50 Mississippi Legislature feels in this matter; and to the members
51 of the Capitol Press Corps.

