

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

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 44

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

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

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

13 WHEREAS, in light of Carolyn Bryant's recent confession that
14 her inflammatory story, which led to the death of young Emmett
15 Till, was fabricated, Mississippi must now apologize for creating
16 an environment conducive to the torture and murder of Emmett Till,
17 the crime's defense by many Mississippi citizens and leaders, and
18 the shameful acquittal of the murderers; and



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

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

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

41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
42 furnished to each state-elected official of Mississippi; the
43 Commissioner of Institutions of Higher Learning; the President of



44 the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,
45 Mississippi Chapter; and the Director of the Southern Christian
46 Leadership Conference, Mississippi Chapter, requesting that they
47 further disseminate copies of this resolution to their respective
48 constituents so as to apprise them of the sense of regret the
49 Mississippi Legislature feels in this matter; and to the members
50 of the Capitol Press Corps.

