

By: Representative Massengill

To: Rules

## HOUSE BILL NO. 526

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO  
2 DESIGNATE JUNE 12, WOMEN'S VETERANS' DAY, AS A LEGAL HOLIDAY IN  
3 THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

4 WHEREAS, women have honorably and courageously served in all  
5 of America's wars and conflicts since the American Revolution, but  
6 their service went unrecognized; and

7 WHEREAS, the first Women's Veterans' Day was held June 12,  
8 2018, marking the 70th anniversary of the Women's Armed Services  
9 Integration Act, which was signed into law by President Harry S.  
10 Truman on June 12, 1948, enabling women to serve as permanent,  
11 regular members of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy and the recently  
12 formed Air Force; and

13 WHEREAS, during World War II, approximately 400,000 women  
14 served in support positions with the military, and nearly 500 were  
15 killed in enemy fire; and

16 WHEREAS, though women were officially recognized as military  
17 members or veterans in 1948, they had been serving in the American  
18 military since before the United States became a nation, often



19 serving in the civilian fields in positions such as nursing and  
20 cooking; and

21 WHEREAS, women now make up about 20% of new recruits, 16% of  
22 personnel serving on active duty, and 19% of the National Guard  
23 and Reserve Forces; and

24 WHEREAS, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the  
25 Mississippi State Veterans Affairs Board remain committed to  
26 providing over 200,000 Mississippi women veterans with exceptional  
27 healthcare and services; and

28 WHEREAS, as members of the Legislature, we salute and  
29 remember the women who courageously served our state and nation,  
30 and we honor our female veterans and their families for their  
31 outstanding service, sacrifice and remarkable dedication to our  
32 nation; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

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

36 3-3-7. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2)  
37 of this section, the following are declared to be legal holidays,  
38 viz: the first day of January (New Year's Day); the third Monday  
39 of January (Robert E. Lee's birthday and Dr. Martin Luther King,  
40 Jr.'s birthday); the third Monday of February (Washington's  
41 birthday); the last Monday of April (Confederate Memorial Day);  
42 the last Monday of May (National Memorial Day and Jefferson Davis'  
43 birthday); the twelfth day of June (Women's Veterans' Day); the



44 fourth day of July (Independence Day); the first Monday of  
45 September (Labor Day); the eleventh day of November (Armistice or  
46 Veterans' Day); the day fixed by proclamation by the Governor of  
47 Mississippi as a day of Thanksgiving, which shall be fixed to  
48 correspond to the date proclaimed by the President of the United  
49 States (Thanksgiving Day); and the twenty-fifth day of December  
50 (Christmas Day). In the event any holiday hereinbefore declared  
51 legal shall fall on Sunday, then the next following day shall be a  
52 legal holiday.

53 (2) In lieu of any one (1) legal holiday provided for in  
54 subsection (1) of this section, with the exception of the third  
55 Monday in January (Robert E. Lee's birthday and Martin Luther  
56 King, Jr.'s birthday) and the eleventh day of November (Armistice  
57 or Veterans' Day), the governing authorities of any municipality  
58 or county may declare, by order spread upon its minutes, Mardi  
59 Gras Day or any one (1) other day during the year, to be a legal  
60 holiday.

61 (3) August 16 is declared to be Elvis Aaron Presley Day in  
62 recognition and appreciation of Elvis Aaron Presley's many  
63 contributions, international recognition and the rich legacy left  
64 to us by Elvis Aaron Presley. This day shall be a day of  
65 recognition and observation and shall not be recognized as a legal  
66 holiday.

67 (4) May 8 is declared to be Hernando de Soto Day in  
68 recognition, observation and commemoration of Hernando de Soto,



69 who led the first and most imposing expedition ever made by  
70 Europeans into the wilds of North America and the State of  
71 Mississippi, and in further recognition of the Spanish explorer's  
72 187-day journey from the Tombigbee River basin on our state's  
73 eastern boundary, westward to the place of discovery of the  
74 Mississippi River on May 8, 1541. This day shall be a day of  
75 commemoration, recognition and observation of Hernando de Soto and  
76 European exploration and shall not be recognized as a legal  
77 holiday.

78 (5) Armistice Day (Veterans' Day) shall be observed by  
79 appropriate exercises in all the public schools in the State of  
80 Mississippi. The superintendent of schools of each public school  
81 district is authorized to provide for the appearance of uniformed  
82 military personnel, uniformed veterans or the families of fallen  
83 military personnel/veterans at such public school exercises in  
84 honor of Armistice (Veterans') Day. The superintendent of schools  
85 is also authorized to permit the school band and its director(s)  
86 at any public school in the district to perform at Armistice  
87 (Veterans') Day exercises in the school district upon the request  
88 of public officials or veterans associations without loss of any  
89 program credit by participating students and without loss of leave  
90 by participating school personnel.

91 (6) The month of March is declared to be "Mississippi  
92 Musicians Month" to recognize and celebrate the state's rich



93 musical heritage and to encourage the world to join Mississippi in  
94 honoring our musicians and their contributions.

95 (7) In recognition of the service, courage and sacrifice of  
96 the valiant service members of the Tuskegee Airmen who served  
97 during World War II, the fourth Thursday of March is designated as  
98 Tuskegee Airmen Day in Mississippi. This should be a day of  
99 recognition and observation and shall not be recognized as a legal  
100 holiday.

101 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from  
102 and after its passage.

