

By: Representative Arnold

To: Rules

HOUSE BILL NO. 617

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 3-3-7, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 DECLARE SEPTEMBER 11 OF EACH YEAR TO BE PATRIOT'S DAY IN
3 REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 TERRORIST
4 ATTACKS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

8 3-3-7. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2)
9 of this section, the following are declared to be legal holidays,
10 viz: the first day of January (New Year's Day); the third Monday
11 of January (Robert E. Lee's birthday and Dr. Martin Luther King,
12 Jr.'s birthday); the third Monday of February (Washington's
13 birthday); the last Monday of April (Confederate Memorial Day);
14 the last Monday of May (National Memorial Day and Jefferson Davis'
15 birthday); the fourth day of July (Independence Day); the first
16 Monday of September (Labor Day); the eleventh day of November
17 (Armistice or Veterans' Day); the day fixed by proclamation by the
18 Governor of Mississippi as a day of Thanksgiving, which shall be
19 fixed to correspond to the date proclaimed by the President of the



20 United States (Thanksgiving Day); and the twenty-fifth day of
21 December (Christmas Day). In the event any holiday hereinbefore
22 declared legal shall fall on Sunday, then the next following day
23 shall be a legal holiday.

24 (2) In lieu of any one (1) legal holiday provided for in
25 subsection (1) of this section, with the exception of the third
26 Monday in January (Robert E. Lee's birthday and Martin Luther
27 King, Jr.'s birthday) and the eleventh day of November (Armistice
28 or Veterans' Day), the governing authorities of any municipality
29 or county may declare, by order spread upon its minutes, Mardi
30 Gras Day or any one (1) other day during the year, to be a legal
31 holiday.

32 (3) August 16 is declared to be Elvis Aaron Presley Day in
33 recognition and appreciation of Elvis Aaron Presley's many
34 contributions, international recognition and the rich legacy left
35 to us by Elvis Aaron Presley. This day shall be a day of
36 recognition and observation and shall not be recognized as a legal
37 holiday.

38 (4) May 8 is declared to be Hernando de Soto Day in
39 recognition, observation and commemoration of Hernando de Soto,
40 who led the first and most imposing expedition ever made by
41 Europeans into the wilds of North America and the State of
42 Mississippi, and in further recognition of the Spanish explorer's
43 187-day journey from the Tombigbee River basin on our state's
44 eastern boundary, westward to the place of discovery of the



Mississippi River on May 8, 1541. This day shall be a day of commemoration, recognition and observation of Hernando de Soto and European exploration and shall not be recognized as a legal holiday.

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

(6) The month of March is declared to be "Mississippi Musicians Month" to recognize and celebrate the state's rich musical heritage and to encourage the world to join Mississippi in honoring our musicians and their contributions.

(7) In recognition of the service, courage and sacrifice of the valiant service members of the Tuskegee Airmen who served during World War II, the fourth Thursday of March is designated as Tuskegee Airmen Day in Mississippi. This should be a day of



70 recognition and observation and shall not be recognized as a legal
71 holiday.

72 (8) September 11 is declared to be Patriot's Day in
73 remembrance of the 2,977 people killed and the numerous people who
74 were injured during the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001,
75 in New York, Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania.

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

