

By: Representatives Anthony, Rosebud,
Sanders

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1

1 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY AND RICH LEGACIES OF
2 LEGENDARY MISSISSIPPI BLUES MUSICIAN RILEY B. "B.B." KING AND
3 MISSISSIPPI CIVIL RIGHTS PIONEER MEDGAR WILEY EVERS ON WHAT WOULD
4 HAVE BEEN THEIR 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS.

5 WHEREAS, this year marks the 100th birth anniversary of the
6 legendary blues guitarist, singer and songwriter Riley B. "B.B."
7 King, who was born on September 16, 1925, near Itta Bena,
8 Mississippi, and who left an indelible mark on the world of music;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, this year also marks the 100th birth anniversary of
11 American Civil Rights Activist Medgar Wiley Evers, who was born in
12 Decatur, Mississippi, on July 2, 1925, and who was a decorated
13 U.S. Army combat veteran who served in World War II who became a
14 fearless pioneer as he was the NAACP's first field secretary in
15 the State of Mississippi; and

16 WHEREAS, B.B. King introduced a sophisticated style of
17 soloing that influenced countless blues electric guitar players
18 due to his fluid string bending, shimmering vibrato and staccato



19 picking that set him apart and made him a role model for countless
20 musicians; and

21 WHEREAS, due to the incomparable talent of B.B. King,
22 *AllMusic* hailed him as "the single most important electric
23 guitarist of the last half of the 20th Century," and he earned the
24 nickname "The King of Blues" and was one of the "Three Kings of
25 Blue Guitar" (alongside Albert King and Freddie King, none of whom
26 were related); and

27 WHEREAS, the musical journey for King began in juke joints
28 and local radio stations, and he later lived in Memphis and
29 Chicago, and as his fame grew, he toured the world extensively;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, B.B. King's soulful voice and expressive guitar
32 playing resonated with audiences across generations and due to his
33 popularity, he performed tirelessly, averaging more than 200
34 concerts per year, and as a testament of King's work ethic, in
35 1956 alone, he appeared at an astounding 342 shows; and

36 WHEREAS, the other would be renowned centenarian, Mr. Medgar
37 Wiley Evers, dedicated his life to the defense of civil rights in
38 Mississippi and the United States, and his impactful work included
39 efforts to overturn segregation at the University of Mississippi,
40 expand voting rights and promote economic opportunities for Black
41 communities, just to name a few; and

42 WHEREAS, tragically, on June 12, 1963, Evers was assassinated
43 at his home in Jackson, Mississippi, and his legacy lives on as



44 his remarkable life and mournful death have inspired numerous
45 works of art, music and film; and

46 WHEREAS, after his tragic death, Mr. Evers, who was a World
47 War II veteran, was buried with full military honors at Arlington
48 National Cemetery; and

49 WHEREAS, today, we honor Medgar Evers, a heroic civil rights
50 activist, on what would have been his 100th birthday, and his
51 unwavering commitment to justice and equality continues to inspire
52 generations; and

53 WHEREAS, today we also honor B.B. King on what would have
54 been his 100th birthday due to his contributions to the music
55 fabric of America, and notably during his lifetime, King recorded
56 more than 50 albums and won 15 Grammy Awards, including the
57 Recording Academy's Lifetime Achievement Award in 1987; and

58 WHEREAS, in 1986, King earned a Star on the Hollywood Walk of
59 Fame and in 2003, the *Rolling Stones* magazine ranked King Number
60 3, behind only Jimi Hendrix and Duane Allman on the list of "100
61 Greatest Guitarists of All Time"; and

62 WHEREAS, although King died on May 15, 2015, at the age of
63 89, his legacy lives on through his timeless music and Medgar
64 Evers' legacy lives on through the Civil Rights Movement, and
65 today, we celebrate the centenary of their remarkable lives; and

66 WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the House of
67 Representatives honor and remember the rich legacies of these two



68 extraordinary Mississippians on their Centennial Birthday
69 Anniversaries:

70 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
71 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
72 honor the memory and profound legacies of legendary Mississippi
73 Blues Musician Riley "B.B." King and Mississippi Civil Rights
74 Pioneer Medgar Wiley Evers on what would have been their 100th
75 birthday celebrations.

76 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
77 the surviving descendants of B.B. King and Medgar Evers, forwarded
78 to the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center, the
79 Mississippi Museum of History and Myrlie Evers Home National
80 Monument, the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, the Board of
81 Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History,
82 and be made available to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

