

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Frazier, Butler,
Jackson, Norwood

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 508

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY AND 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 Berclair,
8 Mississippi, and left an indelible mark on the world of music; and

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

14 WHEREAS, it is altogether appropriate that the Mississippi
15 Legislature remember the legacies of these two great
16 Mississippians on their Centennial Birthday Anniversaries; and

17 WHEREAS, B.B. King introduced a sophisticated style of
18 soloing that influenced countless blues electric guitar players.
19 His fluid string-bending, shimmering vibrato and staccato-picking



20 set him apart. *AllMusic* hailed him as "the single most important
21 electric guitarist of the last half of the 20th Century." He
22 earned the nickname "The King of Blues" and was one of the "Three
23 Kings of Blue Guitar," alongside Albert King and Freddie King,
24 none of whom were related; and

25 WHEREAS, King's musical journey began in juke joints and
26 local radio stations. He later lived in Memphis, Chicago and Las
27 Vegas, and as his fame grew, he toured the world extensively. His
28 soulful voice and expressive guitar playing resonated with
29 audiences across generations. King performed tirelessly well into
30 the 1990's, averaging more than 200 concerts per year. In 1956
31 alone, he appeared at an astounding 342 shows; and

32 WHEREAS, Mr. Evers dedicated his life to the defense of civil
33 rights in Mississippi and the United States. His impactful work
34 included efforts to overturn segregation at the University of
35 Mississippi, expand voting rights and promote economic
36 opportunities for Black communities; and

37 WHEREAS, tragically, on June 12, 1963, Evers was assassinated
38 at his home in Jackson, Mississippi. Despite the challenges,
39 Evers' legacy lives on. His life and death have inspired numerous
40 works of art, music and film. As a veteran, Evers was buried with
41 full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery; and

42 WHEREAS, today, we honor Medgar Evers on what would have been
43 his 100th birthday. His unwavering commitment to justice and
44 equality continues to inspire generations; and



45 WHEREAS, during his lifetime, B.B. King recorded more than 50
46 albums and won 15 Grammy Awards, including the Recording Academy's
47 Lifetime Achievement Award in 1987. In 1986, he earned a Star on
48 the Hollywood Walk of Fame. In 2003, the *Rolling Stones* magazine
49 ranked King Number 3, behind only Jimi Hendrix and Duane Allman on
50 the list of "100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time". King passed
51 away on May 15, 2015, at the age of 89; and

52 WHEREAS, B.B. King's legacy lives on through his timeless
53 music and Medgar Evers' legacy lives on through the Civil Rights
54 Movement, and today, we celebrate the centenary of their
55 remarkable lives:

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
57 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
58 we do hereby honor the memory and legacies of legendary
59 Mississippi Blues Musician Riley B. "B.B." King and Mississippi
60 Civil Rights Pioneer Medgar Wiley Evers on what would have been
61 their 100th birthday celebrations.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
63 the surviving descendants of B.B. King and Medgar Evers, forwarded
64 to the B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center, the
65 Mississippi Museum of History and Myrlie Evers Home National
66 Monument, the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum, the Board of
67 Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History,
68 and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

