

By: Senator(s) Robinson, Blount, Boyd,  
Frazier, McLendon, Norwood, Seymour, Simmons  
(12th), Sparks, Thomas

To: Rules

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 99

1 A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE LEGACY OF THE LATE MISSISSIPPI  
2 REPRESENTATIVE ICEY DAY FROM ATTALA COUNTY, THE "FATHER OF THE  
3 MISSISSIPPI INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND," ON THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
4 HIS PASSING AND COMMENDING THE IMPORTANT FUNCTION OF MIB AS THE  
5 PREFERRED EMPLOYER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE VISUALLY IMPAIRED.

6 WHEREAS, we join the employees, administrators and supporters  
7 of the Mississippi Industries for the Blind in remembering the  
8 legacy of its founder, Mississippi Representative Icey Day from  
9 Attala County, on the 70th Anniversary of his passing on December  
10 21, 1955; and

11 WHEREAS, in 1928, the Mississippi Commission for the Blind  
12 was formed to administer newly enacted legislation authorizing the  
13 state to "aid the blind, whose training is not otherwise provided  
14 for, in finding employment." In 1942, a state agency, Mississippi  
15 Industries for the Blind, was founded through legislation to  
16 provide employment and training for Mississippians who are blind  
17 or visually impaired; and

18 WHEREAS, the mission of Mississippi Industries for the Blind  
19 (MIB) is to be the preferred employer of Mississippians who are



blind or visually impaired throughout the entire State of Mississippi. MIB is the leader in providing service to individuals who are blind or visually impaired regarding the available assistance and technology that can enhance independence and self-reliance in their careers and personal lives; and

WHEREAS, Icey Wiley Day (July 1, 1891 - December 21, 1955), who was blind, was a longtime Democratic member of the Mississippi House of Representatives, representing Attala County.

Representative Day was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives, representing his native Attala County as a Democrat, for the first time in 1915. He was elected again and served the terms of 1932-1936, 1936-1940, 1944-1948, and 1948-1952. During his tenure, he founded the Mississippi Industries for the Blind; and

WHEREAS, at the time of his passing, the following tributes appeared in *The Clarion Ledger*:

"The tragic and untimely passing of Representative Icey W. Day, Mississippi's distinguished legislator from Attala County, represents a distinct loss to progressive government. Although blind for the greater portion of his life, this handicap in no way impaired his long and useful service to the people of this state. Representative Day served as counselor for vocational rehabilitation work for the blind of our state, his monument to his memory. Nor were the efforts of this gentle and lovable personality limited to that particular field. Throughout his



entire public service career, he worked tirelessly and brilliantly in all movements for the betterment of Attala County and the State of Mississippi. Icey W. Day's concept of duty and service has few parallels in the history of his county. As a member of the Legislature, as a Christian and as a father and husband, his record is without blemish. His tenacity of purpose and devotion to others stamp him as one to be remembered as one of Mississippi's greatest and most useful sons. His counsel and leadership will be sorely missed by those he served so well"; and

WHEREAS, the *Jackson Daily News* stated: "No man in either House or Senate was more genuinely loved. To Icey Day of Attala belongs a large share of the credit for construction of the magnificent group of buildings now occupied by the State School for the Blind and the State School for the Deaf. These two institutions will long stand as monuments to his memory"; and

WHEREAS, it is with great respect that we remember the legacy of a great Mississippian whose ambition was to respect fellow employees for their abilities to perform in the workplace and to uphold the trust to maintain a safe and productive workplace for all Mississippians:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commemorate the legacy of the late Mississippi Representative Icey Day from Attala County, the "Father of the Mississippi Industries for the Blind," on the 70th Anniversary of his passing and commend the important function of



70 MIB as the preferred employer of individuals who are visually  
71 impaired.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
73 the Executive Director of the Mississippi Industries for the  
74 Blind, forwarded to the Governor, the Icey W. Day Memorial  
75 Building of the Mississippi Industries for the Blind, and made  
76 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

