

By: Representatives Banks, Clarke, Bailey,
Clark, Coleman (65th), Dickson, Evans,
Flaggs, Fleming, Fredericks, Gibbs, Green,
Holland, Holloway, Huddleston, Livingston,
Middleton, Myers, Robinson (63rd), Scott
(80th), Straughter, Thomas, Wallace, Watson, West, Eads

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 61

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING DR. JAMES HOWARD MEREDITH
2 AS A LIVING LEGEND UPON THE 41ST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF HIS
3 ENTRANCE INTO THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. James Howard Meredith was born June 25, 1933, in
5 Kosciusko, Mississippi, and raised on his family's 84-acre farm in
6 rural Attala County; and

7 WHEREAS, after graduating from St. Petersburg, Florida, High
8 School in 1951, Dr. Meredith served in the United States Air Force
9 from 1951 to 1960, which included a three-year tour of duty at
10 Tackikawa Air Force Base in Japan, earning the rank of Sergeant
11 First Class; and

12 WHEREAS, returning to Mississippi in 1960, Dr. Meredith
13 enrolled at Jackson State University, where he remained until
14 1961; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Meredith later enrolled in the University of
16 Mississippi on October 1, 1962, becoming the first
17 African-American to enroll and graduate from an all white
18 institution of higher learning in the state, graduating with a
19 bachelor's degree on August 18, 1963, and earning his L.L.B. in
20 1968 from Columbia University Law School; and

21 WHEREAS, a civil rights activist, businessman, politician,
22 and author, Dr. Meredith has dedicated his life to supporting
23 individual rights, leading the 1966 "Walk Against Fear," which
24 registered some 300,000 voters, and the 1996 "Black Man's March to
25 the Library"; and

26 WHEREAS, having written numerous publications, including
27 "Three Years in Mississippi" and "Mississippi: A Volume of Eleven



28 Books," Dr. Meredith was honored in 1997 by the University of
29 Mississippi upon the presentation of his papers, containing over
30 250 linear feet of personal correspondence, speech and book
31 manuscripts, publications and pamphlets, to the J.D. Williams
32 Library; and

33 WHEREAS, because of Dr. Meredith's uncommon fortitude and
34 commitment toward working and bringing about social change, many
35 lives have been touched and future generations of scholars from
36 many backgrounds and disciplines will be able to gain a better
37 understanding of the concept of social equality for all; and

38 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
39 and commend outstanding individuals such as Dr. Meredith, whose
40 courageous spirit and civil rights legacy will live on forever
41 inspiring many generations to come:

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
43 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
44 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend Dr. James Howard Meredith as a
45 living legend and congratulate him upon the 41st anniversary
46 celebration of his historic entrance into the University of
47 Mississippi.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
49 furnished to Dr. James Howard Meredith and the members of the
50 Capitol Press Corps.

