

By: Senator(s) Jordan, Walls, Harden,
Frazier, Simmons, Turner, Dawkins, Furniss,
Blackmon, Nunnelee, Smith, Williamson,
Gollott, Tollison, Browning, Dearing, Minor

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 609

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE ILLUSTRIOUS SOCIAL
2 SERVICE CAREER OF LEGENDARY CLEVELAND BROWN FOOTBALL RUNNING BACK
3 JIM BROWN AND RECOGNIZING HIM AS FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF THE
4 AMER-I-CAN PROGRAM THAT TEACHES RESPONSIBILITY AND
5 SELF-DETERMINATION.

6 WHEREAS, James Nathaniel Brown was born in 1936 at St. Simons
7 Island on the southern Georgia coastline. He was raised by his
8 grandmother until age 7, when he joined his mother near Long
9 Island, New York. He later enrolled in nearby Manhasset High
10 School, where his sensational athletic career began averaging 14.9
11 yards per carry on the football field and 38 points on the
12 basketball court; and

13 WHEREAS, Jim Brown was educated at Syracuse University, where
14 he was named as an All-American running back, averaging 6.2 yards
15 in his senior year and later was inducted into the College
16 Football Hall of Fame. He was also an All-American in Lacrosse
17 and is considered one of the best players ever in that sport. Jim
18 Brown also excelled academically and was honored as one of five
19 recipients of the "NCAA Silver Anniversary Outstanding Students of
20 the Past 25 Years"; and

21 WHEREAS, Jim Brown played professional football with the
22 Cleveland Browns from 1957 to 1966. During his illustrious and
23 legendary career, Mr. Brown established many records, including a
24 one-year career total of 12,312 yards gained. His 5.2 yards per
25 carry average has never been broken. He was inducted into the NFL
26 Hall of Fame and is considered by many as the greatest running
27 back in football history. He retired at the peak of his



28 professional football career after winning the NFL Championship
29 and MVP of the League to become a motion picture actor; and

30 WHEREAS, as a screen actor, Mr. Brown has appeared in over 20
31 motion pictures, including The Dirty Dozen (1967), El Condor
32 (1970), Slaughter and Black Gunn (1972), Original Gangsta's (1996)
33 and Mars Attacks (1996); and

34 WHEREAS, in 1966, he and some of the finest African-American
35 minds in the country formally established the NIEU, from which
36 over 100 African-American businesses benefited from the Union's
37 capital support and expertise; and

38 WHEREAS, in 1980, Jim Brown set his aspirations toward
39 helping empower the disenfranchised, and became involved with Coor
40 Golden Door and Barriers, both job creation programs for
41 ex-convicts to properly reintroduce them to society's mainstream;
42 and

43 WHEREAS, in 1988, Jim Brown founded and became President of
44 the Amer-I-Can Program, Inc. The core of the program is a
45 self-esteem/life management skills curriculum that teachers
46 responsibility and self-determination. Combined with a strong
47 aftercare component, the Amer-I-Can Program is considered as a
48 premium prevention and intervention tool in reaching the "hard
49 core" and the at-risk population. A powerful weapon in
50 accomplishing this task is that 95% of the Amer-I-Can staff is
51 composed of former gang members and/or ex-convicts. Mr. Brown's
52 Herculean efforts helped keep peace among warring gang sets during
53 the Los Angeles uprising; and

54 WHEREAS, Amer-I-Can operations have been in Schools, Adult
55 and Juvenile Correctional Facilities and Communities in
56 California, Oregon, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Nevada, Colorado,
57 Louisiana, Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska and Florida. Tens of
58 thousands of correctional inmates, law enforcement officers,
59 students, community residents and others have been trained; and



60 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize and welcome
61 to our state this legendary football star who has channeled his
62 energy and fame into extending intervention services to inner-city
63 juveniles and their families who are normally deprived of such
64 services because of economic hardship:

65 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
66 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
67 we do hereby commend the illustrious social service career of
68 legendary Cleveland Brown football running back Jim Brown, and
69 recognize him as founder and President of the Amer-I-Can Program,
70 Inc., that teaches responsibility and self-determination for
71 at-risk juveniles, and extend to him our welcome to the State of
72 Mississippi and best wishes for future successes.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
74 Jim Brown and representatives of The Amer-I-Can Program, and be
75 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

