

By: Senator(s) Jordan, Simmons, Gollott,
Thomas, Jackson (11th), Butler, Frazier,
Mettetal, Gordon, Hewes, Williamson,
Carmichael, Davis, Kirby, Turner, Pickering,
Harvey, Posey, Morgan, Michel, Chaney,
Dawkins, Doxey, White, Wilemon, Tollison,
King, Cuevas, Browning, Flowers, Hyde-Smith,
Huggins, Horhn, Lee (47th), Walley, Dearing,
Harden, Brown, Jackson (32nd), Little,
Robertson

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 534

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CAREER OF THE "KING OF
2 THE BLUES" MISSISSIPPI'S B.B. KING AND EXTENDING THE BEST WISHES
3 OF THE LEGISLATURE AS HE NEARS HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY.

4 WHEREAS, the Blues' foremost artist, by anybody's standard,
5 is Mississippi's favorite son, "B.B." King, and the guitar master
6 has the licks and the hits to prove it; and

7 WHEREAS, with dazzling perseverance, B.B. King again and
8 again has broken new ground, remaining at the forefront as perhaps
9 the Blues' greatest pioneer; and

10 WHEREAS, from the 1940's to present day, there has only been
11 one King of the Blues, Riley B King, affectionately known as B.B.
12 King. He has released over fifty albums, sold more than four
13 million records, won thirteen Grammys, performed in more than
14 ninety countries, been honored by presidents and kings alike - and
15 he's not done yet; and

16 WHEREAS, his career is hotter than ever as he approaches his
17 80th birthday in 2005, performing more often than many artists
18 half his age; and

19 WHEREAS, he was born on a cotton plantation in Berclair
20 outside Itta Bena, Mississippi, and is known for his humility,
21 work ethic, perseverance and heart. He is envied by musicians
22 internationally. Beatle John Lennon once said "I wish I could
23 play the guitar like B.B. King"; and

24 WHEREAS, he acquired the name "B.B." while performing in
25 Memphis. It stood for Beale Street Blues Boy or just Blues Boy,
26 which everyone shortened to B.B.; and

27 WHEREAS, King's total dedication to his music, a rich
28 recording history and tireless touring lasting more than half a
29 century have made him one of the most prominent figures within the
30 Blues. Through his achievements in spreading the Blues throughout
31 the world, he has, as a leading proponent of his music, proved of
32 fundamental importance to the development of modern popular music;
33 and

34 WHEREAS, B.B. King is known as the "King of the Blues" and
35 for half a century has been one of the absolute foremost figures
36 in his music genre. King has lifted the Blues from the confines
37 of the American South and brought it to a huge audience the world
38 over. But, no matter where he appears in the world, B.B. King is
39 a proud ambassador of his home state, and Mississippi is even
40 prouder of this native son; and

41 WHEREAS, B.B.'s achievements are as follows: Blues
42 Foundation Hall of Fame and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame; Lifetime
43 Achievement Award from the National Academy of Recording Arts and
44 Sciences; Presidential Medal of the Arts; Kennedy Center Honors;
45 National Heritage Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts;
46 honorary doctorate degrees: Yale, Berklee College of Music,
47 Rhodes College, Tougaloo College and Mississippi Valley State
48 University; Hollywood Walk of Fame; Amsterdam (Holland) Walk of
49 Fame; 13 Grammys, including two in 2003 and still counting;
50 Songwriters' Hall of Fame, Lifetime Achievement Award; influenced
51 the work of countless international artists: Eric Clapton, Jeff
52 Beck, Stevie Ray Vaughan, among many others; performed for fans in
53 90 countries, and the list grows every year; sold over 40 million
54 records worldwide and still counting; and the 2004 recipient of
55 the Polar Music Prize, the musical equivalent of the Nobel Prize,
56 presented by King Carl XVI Gustav of Sweden; and

57 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize this Blues
58 legend who has served with distinction as an ambassador for the

59 State of Mississippi, bringing honor to his home community, region
60 and state:

61 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
62 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
63 we do hereby commend the career of the "King of the Blues,"
64 Mississippi's B.B. King, declaring Tuesday, February 15, 2005, as
65 "B.B. King Day" in the Legislature, and extend to him the best
66 wishes of the Legislature as he nears his 80th birthday.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
68 B.B. King at ceremonies at the New Capitol and be made available
69 to the Capitol Press Corps.