

By: Representatives Espy, Burnett, Mayo,
Brown

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 31

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SAM
2 COOKE UPON THE WALK OF FAME DEDICATION IN HIS HONOR IN CLARKSDALE,
3 MISSISSIPPI, AND DESIGNATING APRIL 4, 2008, AS "SAM COOKE DAY" IN
4 MISSISSIPPI.

5 WHEREAS, Sam Cooke was born in Clarksdale, Mississippi, on
6 January 22, 1931, the fifth child of seven children born to
7 Reverend Charles Cook and Annie Mae Cook; and

8 WHEREAS, as a young boy, Sam grew up singing gospel music
9 with his siblings as "The Singing Children" and later became one
10 of the most recognizable and celebrated voices in gospel music as
11 the lead singer of the "Highway QCs" and later with the "Soul
12 Stirrers"; and

13 WHEREAS, in 1957, Cooke crossed over from gospel to secular
14 music, reaching No. 1 on the popular music charts with his single,
15 *You Send Me*; and

16 WHEREAS, one of the first performers of his era to recognize
17 the importance of owning the publishing rights to his musical
18 compositions, there was never a time in a seven-year period
19 between 1957 and 1964, that a Sam Cooke recording did not appear
20 on the country's popular music charts; and

21 WHEREAS, musicians and critics today recognize him as one of
22 the founders of soul music, and as one of the most important
23 singers in soul music history, called "The King of Soul" by many,
24 Cooke's legacy is an extensive one and his impact on soul music is
25 undeniable; and

26 WHEREAS, Cooke was also among the first modern
27 African-American performers and composers to tend to the business



28 side of his musical career, founding both a record label and a
29 publishing company as an extension of his career as a singer and
30 composer; and

31 WHEREAS, Cooke also took an active part in the Civil Rights
32 Movement as a quiet leader, using his musical ability to bridge
33 gaps between black and white audiences and being one of the first
34 artists to refuse to perform before a segregated audience in the
35 South; and

36 WHEREAS, Sam Cooke, inducted as a charter member into the
37 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1986, came to be known by his legion
38 of fans as "the man who invented soul" and has since become the
39 musical inspiration for countless performers and for generations
40 to follow; and

41 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
42 recognize and commend the musical artistry and success of such a
43 talented Mississippian as Sam Cooke, whose music transcended
44 racial and social boundaries to influence throngs of musicians and
45 brings great honor to his native home of Clarksdale and to the
46 State of Mississippi:

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
48 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
49 commend the life and accomplishments of Sam Cooke upon the Walk of
50 Fame Dedication in his honor in Clarksdale, Mississippi, and
51 designate April 4, 2008, as "Sam Cooke Day" in Mississippi.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
53 furnished to the City of Clarksdale and to the members of the
54 Capitol Press Corps.

