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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 58

Originated in House _____ Clerk

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 58

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING SERVICE OF MR. JOHNNY "BOOTSY" MORROW AND HIS DEDICATION TO PRESERVING MISSISSIPPI'S UNIQUE AND DIVERSE HISTORY IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HIS MUSEUM, "THE ROOM," IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

WHEREAS, Johnny "Bootsy" Morrow established "The Room," a museum in Jackson, Mississippi, that has preserved some of Mississippi's most interesting and fascinating history; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Morrow purchased the 52,000 square foot building that once housed Independent Linen Service Company to have a place for his many cars, and once he realized how much space was available in the building, he began attending garage sales and estate sales to collect unique and historical odds and ends to fill the space; and

WHEREAS, the museum pays homage to many different parts of Mississippi's diverse history, including the former employees of Independent Linen Service Company, a linen cleaning and pressing service that was established in 1931 where hundreds of African-American workers earned less than $1.00 an hour as they

cleaned and pressed uniforms for the Jackson Police Department, Mississippi Highway Patrol, churches and numerous other organizations; and

WHEREAS, in honoring these employees, Mr. Morrow has recognized the impact that they have had on future generations of their family, including their children and grandchildren who were able to tremendously succeed, becoming doctors, lawyers and even professional sports stars, such as NBA star Monta Ellis, whose grandmother was among the many employees at Independent Linen Service Company; and

WHEREAS, featuring dozens of vintage automobiles, including a car that his uncle built and other automobiles that have appeared in Hollywood films such as "The Help" and the James Brown biopic "Get on Up," the museum also boasts a 1958 white Cadillac that Mr. Morrow determined once belonged to former Texas Governor, John Connally, and that was the sixth vehicle in the motorcade on November 22, 1963, in Dallas, Texas, when President Kennedy was assassinated; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Morrow has accumulated some fascinating odds and ends through his searching at garage sales and estate sales, including a dancing James Brown doll, skeletons that pluck banjos, a baseball bat signed by the legendary Jackie Robinson and original concert posters of Elmore James, Howlin' Wolf and Etta James, and Mr. Morrow has also created sections of the museum to honor preachers, graduates of his alma mater, Lanier High School,

African-American musicians of the 1940s and 1950s, sharecroppers and the State of Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Morrow has also collected some outstanding film from the Civil Rights Movement such as video footage of the 1966 Meredith March that included civil rights leaders Martin Luther King, Jr., James Meredith and Stokely Carmichael, and 1960s-era footage of law enforcement officers training for civil rights protests; and

WHEREAS, not only does the museum have many unique items from Mississippi history, it also contains a room having a 30 by 20 foot video screen, where groups are able to hold parties and watch sporting events; and

WHEREAS, many famous celebrities such as Muhammad Ali, Dan Aykroyd, Snoop Dogg, and Morgan Freeman have frequented "The Room," and all one has to do to visit is to call Mr. Morrow, who is willing to not only exhibit these gems but also share the stories behind them; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Morrow has noted that many people have told him that his museum is the jewel of Mississippi, but he believes that the unique and captivating items that he has collected represent everyone's history and should be shared with all Mississippians; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to commend fine Mississippians such as Mr. Johnny "Bootsy" Morrow, who have

brought honor to the State of Mississippi through his dedication to preserving Mississippi's vastly unique history:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN, That we do hereby commend Mr. Johnny "Bootsy" Morrow on the establishment of his outstanding museum, "The Room," in Jackson, Mississippi, that reflects and preserves the unique and diverse history of Mississippi.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be furnished to Mr. Johnny "Bootsy" Morrow and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
February 19, 2018

Philip Gunn

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ADOPTED BY THE SENATE
February 21, 2018

Tate Reeves

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE