

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Office of the Governor



Executive Order No. 1356

WHEREAS, B.B. King, a proud Mississippian of humble beginnings, was the most influential musician in the history of the blues, which is the root of all American music, and he was known as the “Ambassador of the Blues” and “King of the Blues;” and

WHEREAS, B.B. King was born Riley B. King on September 16, 1925, in Berclair, Mississippi, and subsequently moved to Kilmichael, where he first heard the blues and decided to pursue a musical career, then later moved to Indianola, where he worked as a tractor driver and performed with a gospel quartet before actively playing the blues; and

WHEREAS, B.B. King enjoyed his first musical success in the 1940s and 1950s with international stardom arriving with the 1970 crossover hit, “The Thrill is Gone;” and

WHEREAS, with the help of his famous guitar, Lucille, B.B. King was named No. 3 on *Time*’s list of the ten best guitarists of all time and No. 6 on *Rolling Stones*’ list of the 100 greatest guitarists of all time; and

WHEREAS, he has been honored with over a dozen GRAMMY ® awards and many other accolades including Honorary Doctorates from Yale University and Brown University, induction into the Blues Hall of Fame and Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, National Medal of Arts, Kennedy Center Honors, Presidential Medal of Freedom, and two Mississippi Blues Trail markers; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, B.B. King purchased Club Ebony in Indianola, one of the South’s most important African American nightclubs and the site of performances by greats such as Ray Charles, Count Basie, Bobby Bland, Little Milton and King himself, preserving a major cultural landmark and the place where he “found love back down in the Delta”; and

WHEREAS, B.B. King generously contributed numerous gems and memorabilia exemplifying his career to the B.B. King and Delta Interpretive Center in Indianola, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, B.B. King was a goodwill ambassador for the State of Mississippi, and his contributions to music had state, national and international significance and acclaim:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Phil Bryant, by the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and laws of the State of Mississippi, do hereby proclaim a period of official mourning in the State of Mississippi and do hereby order all flags of the State of Mississippi be flown at half-staff on all buildings and grounds of the State of Mississippi and all areas under its jurisdiction beginning at sunrise on Friday, May 29, 2015, and ending at sunset on Saturday, May 30, 2015, in remembrance of legendary B.B. King.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Mississippi to be affixed.

DONE at the Capitol in the City of Jackson, the 27th day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America, the two hundred and thirty-ninth.



PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR:

C. Delbert Hosemann, Jr.

C. DELBERT HOSEMANN, JR.
SECRETARY OF STATE