

State of Arkansas  
91st General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2017

*As Engrossed: S3/8/17*

SCR 7

By: Senators B. King, *L. Chesterfield, Elliott, Files, Flippo, S. Flowers, Rice, G. Stubblefield*  
By: Representative G. McGill

## **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

RECOGNIZING BASS REEVES AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO LAW  
ENFORCEMENT.

### **Subtitle**

RECOGNIZING BASS REEVES AND HIS  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

WHEREAS, Mr. Bass Reeves was born a slave in Crawford County, Arkansas, in 1838, but went on to become one of the first black lawmen west of the Mississippi River; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reeves escaped his master, William Reeves, and took refuge in Indian Territory, now modern-day Oklahoma, where he developed his firearm and tracking skills amongst the Creek and Seminole Indians; he is believed to have fought with the Union Indians who fought in Indian Territory during the Civil War; and after the Emancipation Proclamation, he was no longer a fugitive and was able to purchase property in Van Buren County, became a farmer, and fathered 10 children with his wife, Nellie Jennie Reeves; and

WHEREAS, Federal Judge Isaac Parker made Mr. Reeves a Deputy United States Marshal because of his knowledge of the area, his ability to speak several languages, and his marksmanship; as one of the most respected lawmen working in Indian Territory, he achieved legendary status for the number of criminals he captured and often under the most trying of circumstances; and during his tenure as a marshal, Mr. Reeves arrested over 3,000 people; and



WHEREAS, Mr. Reeves was regarded as incredibly just and knowledgeable of the law, despite the fact that he was unable to read and write, having never been taught because he was a slave; he remarried in 1900 to Winnie Sumter, following the death of his first wife; and in 1902, Mr. Reeves even arrested his own son, Bennie, for domestic murder; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reeves survived several assassination attempts and served as a marshal in several jurisdictions until his retirement with 32 years of service; and following his retirement from the United States Marshals Service, Mr. Reeves worked for the Muskogee Police Department in Muskogee, Oklahoma, when Oklahoma achieved statehood in 1907, for 2 years until he developed Bright's Disease and died on January 12, 1910,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the General Assembly recognizes the courage, valor, and sacrifices Mr. Bass Reeves made for this country on behalf of law enforcement and salutes his efforts, and proclaims May 29, 2017, through June 3, 2017, as Bass Reeves Law Enforcement Appreciation Week.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption of this resolution, a copy shall be provided to the United States Marshal for the Western District of Arkansas by the Secretary of the Senate.

*/s/B. King*