

By: Representative Duffield

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO HONOR BLUES MUSICIAN, COMPOSER, RECORD PRODUCER,
AND SINGER BOBBY RUSH FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO MUSIC
AND TO THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

Subtitle

TO HONOR BLUES MUSICIAN, COMPOSER,
RECORD PRODUCER, AND SINGER BOBBY RUSH
FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO MUSIC AND TO
THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

WHEREAS, Bobby Rush, who spent his teenage years in Pine Bluff and began his musical career there, is a Grammy Award-winning musician and inductee into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame, the Blues Hall of Fame, the Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame, and the Rhythm & Blues Music Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Rush was born Emmett Ellis, Jr. near Homer, Louisiana, on November 10, 1933, and began experimenting with music as a young child by using a sugarcane syrup bucket and a broom-wire "diddley bow" zither; and

WHEREAS, in 1947, Bobby Rush moved with his family to Pine Bluff, where Rush befriended musicians including Elmore James, Boyd Gilmore, and Johnny "Big Moose" Walker; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Rush soon formed his own band, Bobby Rush and the Four Jivers, featuring Boyd Gilmore and Johnny "Big Moose" Walker as well as Joe Willie "Pinetop" Perkins and Robert Plunkett; and



WHEREAS, through Boyd Gilmore, Bobby Rush became friends with soon-to-be globally famous musician Izear Luster "Ike" Turner; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Rush moved with his family to Chicago in 1953, where he began performing on a circuit with Jamesetta "Etta James" Hawkins, Chester Arthur "Howlin' Wolf" Burnett, McKinley "Muddy Waters" Morganfield, Freddie King, and Mathis James "Jimmy" Reed; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Rush's song "Chicken Heads" became his breakout record and his first gold-certified record, meaning that five hundred thousand (500,000) or more copies were sold, and it reached number thirty-four (34) in 1971 on the Billboard Rhythm & Blues chart and reemerged as a Billboard hit in 2006 after being featured in the film "Black Snake Moan"; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Rush's song "I Wanna Do the Do" reached number seventy-five (75) on the Billboard Rhythm & Blues chart in 1979, and his 1981 album "Sue" as well as his 1991 album "I Ain't Studdin' You" both became gold-certified; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Rush was honored by Rolling Stone magazine for his fifty (50) years of relentless world touring and his colorful live show, and performed twice for former President William Jefferson "Bill" Clinton; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Rush appeared in the Martin Scorsese documentary film series "The Blues" and the Daniel Cross documentary "I Am the Blues", and also appeared as himself in the 2019 film "Dolemite is My Name" performing his hit song, "I Ain't Studdin' You"; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Rush won Grammy Awards in 2017, 2021, and 2024 in the category of Best Traditional Blues Album for his albums "Porcupine Meat", "Rawer than Raw", and "All My Love for You",

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives honor blues musician, composer, record producer, and singer Bobby Rush for his contributions to music and to the State of Arkansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT upon adoption, a copy of this resolution be presented to Bobby Rush by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives.