

A Proclamation
By
Governor Ronnie Musgrove

WHEREAS, Riley B. King, better known as B. B. King, was born on September 16, 1925, on a plantation in Itta Bena, Mississippi, and traveled to Memphis, Tennessee, in 1947 to begin his musical career; and

WHEREAS, in 1948, B. B. King got his first big break when he performed on Sonny Boy Williamson’s radio program on KWEM out of West Memphis—this led to a steady gig at the Sixteenth Avenue Grill in West Memphis, and later to a ten-minute “King’s Spot” on the Memphis radio station WDIA; and

WHEREAS, “King’s Spot” became so popular that it became the “Sepia Swing Club” and the “Beale Street Blues Boy” was shortened to “Blues Boy King,” and eventually to B. B. King; and

WHEREAS, B. B. King has defined the blues for more than half a century with his trademark Gibson guitars named “Lucille,” performing for audiences worldwide—since he started recording in the 1940’s, B. B. King has released over 50 albums and has become the most renowned blues musician of the past 40 years; and

WHEREAS, at age 76, B. B. King has received countless awards, has been inducted into the Blues Foundation and Rock and Roll Halls of Fame, has recorded numerous hits and continues to sing and play the blues with relentless passion for fans of every generation; and

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2003, the B. B. King Park in Indianola, and two historical markers will be dedicated in honor of B. B. King and the legacy he has created for himself, Mississippi, and the Blues:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Ronnie Musgrove, Governor of the State of Mississippi, hereby proclaim

B. B. KING

as

BLUES AMBASSADOR

of the State of Mississippi.

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

DONE in the City of Indianola, June 5, 2003, in the two hundred and twenty-sixth year of the United States of America.

RONNIE MUSGROVE
GOVERNOR