

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

Act 673 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas  
2 85th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2005  
4

As Engrossed: S2/9/05 S2/14/05

A Bill

SENATE BILL 289

5 By: Senators Bryles, Luker, Higginbothom, Broadway  
6 By: Representative Elliott  
7  
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9 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

10 AN ACT TO RECOGNIZE THE EVENT IN ONE SMALL TOWN  
11 THAT RESULTED IN THE HISTORY OF TWIST, ARKANSAS,  
12 FOREVER BEING INEXTRICABLY LINKED TO THE  
13 LEGENDARY B.B. KING AND HIS FAMOUS GUITAR  
14 "LUCILLE"; TO REQUIRE THE ARKANSAS HISTORY  
15 COMMISSION TO ERECT A PERMANENT MARKER AT TWIST;  
16 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
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18 **Subtitle**

19 TO RECOGNIZE TWIST, ARKANSAS AND A  
20 FAMOUS GUITAR NAMED "LUCILLE".  
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23 *WHEREAS, B.B. King and "Lucille", his guitar and constant companion*  
24 *since 1949, have become legends in the world of blues; and*  
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26 *WHEREAS, the story of B.B. King naming his guitar "Lucille" is*  
27 *legendary in its own right and inextricably linked to the history of a small*  
28 *town in Arkansas; and*  
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30 *WHEREAS, in 1949 when B.B. King's career was in its infancy, one of his*  
31 *stops on the road was at a dance hall in Twist, Arkansas, on a cold winter*  
32 *night. In order to keep the dance hall warm, a large barrel of kerosene was*  
33 *placed in the center of the room and was filled about half-way with fuel.*  
34 *The kerosene was then lighted to heat the room, a practice which was not*  
35 *uncommon in those days; and*



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WHEREAS, as B.B. King entertained the crowd, two (2) men started a brawl over a woman named "Lucille" and knocked over the barrel of burning kerosene. Like a river of fire, the burning fuel spilled over the floor. Everyone, including B.B. King, ran for the front door. Once outside, B.B. King realized that he had left his guitar, a Gibson acoustic, at the mercy of the inferno. Back inside the collapsing building he went to rescue his guitar, almost losing his life in the process. The blaze that night claimed two (2) lives; and

WHEREAS, B.B. King named his guitar "Lucille", and also every guitar he has owned since that night, to remind him never again to risk his life for a material possession; and

WHEREAS, upon speaking about "Lucille", B.B. King says, "I'm very crazy about Lucille. I've had many guitars ... and I always call them Lucille. She's taken me a long way, even brought me some fame ... most of all, she's kept me alive, being able to eat ... Lucille practically saved my life two or three times...",

NOW THEREFORE,  
BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 13, Chapter 3, Subchapter 1 is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

13-3-109. Permanent marker.  
The Arkansas History Commission shall erect a permanent marker in the town of Twist, Arkansas, to commemorate the legendary B.B. King and the event that led to his naming his famous guitar "Lucille" while performing there.

/s/ Bryles

APPROVED: 3/09/2005

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