

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.

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

A Bill

SENATE BILL 289

4
5 By: Senator Bryles

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

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18 TO RECOGNIZE TWIST, ARKANSAS AND A
19 FAMOUS GUITAR NAMED "LUCILLE".

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22 WHEREAS, blues singer B.B. King has become a legend in the world of
23 blues along with his famous guitar named "Lucille", which has been with him
24 since 1949; and

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26 WHEREAS, the story of how B.B. King came about naming his guitar
27 "Lucille" is a legend in its own right and entangled in the history of a
28 small town in Arkansas; and

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30 WHEREAS, back in 1949 when B.B. King's career was in its infancy, one
31 of his stops on the road was at a dance hall in Twist, Arkansas, on a cold
32 winter night. In order to keep the dance hall warm a large barrel of
33 kerosene was placed in the center of the room and was filled about half way
34 up with fuel. The kerosene was then lighted to heat the room, a practice
35 which was not uncommon in those days; and

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1 WHEREAS, as B.B. King entertained the crowd, two (2) men started
2 fighting over a woman named "Lucille" and knocked over the barrel of burning
3 kerosene. The burning fuel spilled over the floor like a river of fire.
4 Everyone, including B.B. King, ran out the front door. Once outside, B.B.
5 King realized that he left his guitar, a Gibson acoustic, inside the inferno.
6 He went back inside the collapsing building to save his guitar, almost losing
7 his life in the process. The blaze that night claimed two (2) fatalities;
8 and

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10 WHEREAS, B.B. King named that guitar "Lucille", and also every guitar
11 he has owned since that night, to remind him to never do a thing like that
12 again; and

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

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20 NOW THEREFORE,

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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

25 13-3-109. Permanent marker.

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

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