1	State of Arkansas	As Engrossed:	<i>S3/8/17</i>	
2	91st General Assembly			
3	Regular Session, 2017		SCR 7	
4				
5	By: Senators B. King, L. Chesterfield, Elliott, Files, Flippo, S. Flowers, Rice, G. Stubblefield			
6	By: Representative G. McGill			
7				
8	SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION			
9	RECOGNIZING BASS REEVES AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO LAW			
10	ENFORCEMEN'	т.		
11				
12				
13		Subtit	le	
14	RECOG	GNIZING BASS REEVES	AND HIS	
15	CONTR	RIBUTIONS TO LAW ENF	ORCEMENT.	
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17				
18	WHEREAS, Mr. Bas	s Reeves was born a	slave in Crawford County, Arkansas,	
19	in 1838, but went on to become one of the first black lawmen west of the			
20	Mississippi River; and			
21				
22	WHEREAS, Mr. Ree	ves escaped his mast	ter, William Reeves, and took refuge	
23	in Indian Territory, now modern-day Oklahoma, where he developed his firearm			
24	and tracking skills am	ongst the Creek and	Seminole Indians; he is believed to	
25	have fought with the U	nion Indians who for	ight in Indian Territory during the	
26	Civil War; and after t	he Emancipation Pro	clamation, he was no longer a	
27	fugitive and was able	to purchase property	y in Van Buren County, became a	
28	farmer, and fathered 1	O children with his	wife, Nellie Jennie Reeves; and	
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30	WHREAS, Federal	Judge Isaac Parker 1	nade Mr. Reeves a Deputy United	
31	States Marshal because of his knowledge of the area, his ability to speak			
32	several languages, and his marksmanship; as one of the most respected lawmen			
33	working in Indian Territory, he achieved legendary status for the number of			
34	criminals he captured and often under the most trying of circumstances; and			
35	during his tenure as a	marshal, Mr. Reeves	s arrested over 3,000 people; and	
36				

1	WHEREAS, Mr. Reeves was regarded as incredibly just and knowledgeable		
2	of the law, despite the fact that he was unable to read and write, having		
3	never been taught because he was a slave; he remarried in 1900 to Winnie		
4	Sumter, following the death of his first wife; and in 1902, Mr. Reeves even		
5	arrested his own son, Bennie, for domestic murder; and		
6			
7	WHEREAS, Mr. Reeves survived several assassination attempts and served		
8	as a marshal in several jurisdictions until his retirement with 32 years of		
9	service; and following his retirement from the United States Marshals		
10	Service, Mr. Reeves worked for the Muskogee Police Department in Muskogee,		
11	Oklahoma, when Oklahoma achieved statehood in 1907, for 2 years until he		
12	developed Bright's Disease and died on January 12, 1910,		
13			
14	NOW THEREFORE,		
15	BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE		
16	STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:		
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18	THAT the General Assembly recognizes the courage, valor, and sacrifices		
19	Mr. Bass Reeves made for this country on behalf of law enforcement and		
20	salutes his efforts, and proclaims May 29, 2017, through June 3, 2017, as		
21	Bass Reeves Law Enforcement Appreciation Week.		
22			
23	BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon adoption of this resolution, a copy shall be		
24	provided to the United States Marshal for the Western District of Arkansas by		
25	the Secretary of the Senate.		
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27	/s/B. King		
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