

SR-9

To give much deserved recognition to James Meredith for his many accomplishments in his fight for freedom and equality during the civil rights era, beginning with Mr. Meredith becoming the 1st African American student to enroll at the Univ. of Mississippi.

IN THE SENATE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

Mr. Eastland of Mississippi submitted the following resolution;

RESOLUTION

To give much deserved recognition to James Meredith for his many accomplishments in his fight for freedom and equality during the civil rights era, beginning with Mr. Meredith becoming the 1st African American student to enroll at the Univ. of Mississippi.

SECTION 2.

Whereas, James Meredith served 9 years in the United States Air Force, where he says his eyes were opened and his plan to effectuate change and fight for freedom and equality after completing his military service started; and

Whereas, after his service in the military he continued to plan to effect change and on September 30, 1962 he enrolled as the first African American student at the University of Mississippi, sparking outrage all over the state and gaining national attention, eventually leading to President Kennedy's mobilization of over 30,000 Army National Guard troops to quash a huge riot at the heart of the campus on the Lyceum Circle, where 2 civilians were killed, 27 US Marshalls were shot by gunfire, and 160 US Marshalls were injured; and

Whereas, Meredith was accepted into the University of Mississippi and became the first African American to enroll at the University. Mr. Meredith fulfilled his childhood dream of graduating from the University of Mississippi by earning a bachelors degree in Political Science in 1963;

Whereas, after enrolling and graduating from The University of Mississippi, Mr. Meredith continued to fight for not only his rights, but for every citizen granted freedom in the United States by being a pivotal leader in the civil rights movement and continuing his fight to this day;

Therefore, be it Resolved, that the 2023 Senate of The American Legion Boys Nation-

(1) Recognizes James Meredith for his lifetime of accomplishments beginning in the Civil Rights Era and continuing to the present, by demonstrating leadership and bravery during his fight for freedom and equality for all to seek an education at any public university and for his efforts in advancing the ideals of freedom and equality for all throughout the civil rights movement and continuing in his life to this day. Further, the Senate recognizes Mr. Meredith's accomplishments throughout his lifetime to be of great importance to this Nation and that he is most deserving to be honored with a Gold Congressional Medal of Honor; and

(2) Requests that the Senate recognize the lifetime achievements of James Meredith, including his service to our country, his efforts and achievements during the civil rights movement and his leadership to this day in the advancement of freedom and equality for all throughout his 90 years of life, and award him with the Gold Congressional Medal of Freedom.