



H.RES. 1251 - SALUTING THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF THE LATE OTHA ELLAS "BO DIDDLEY" BATES, GUITAR VIRTUOSO AND ROCK AND ROLL PIONEER, WHOSE MUSIC CONTINUES TO INFLUENCE GENERATIONS OF MUSICIANS

FLOOR SITUATION

H.Res. 1251 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative John Conyers (D-MI). The resolution was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

H.Res. 1251 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on June 9, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.Res. 1251 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- Honors the life and contributions of Bo Diddley;
- Recognizes and honors Bo Diddley for his invaluable contributions to American culture;
- Recommits itself to ensuring that musical artists such as Bo Diddley receive fair protection under the copyright laws for their contributions to American culture; and
- Extends condolences to his family on the death of this remarkable and talented man.

BACKGROUND

Bo Diddley was born Otha Ellas Bates on December 30, 1928, in McComb, Mississippi. Bo Diddley was one of rock-and-roll's early pioneer guitarists and lyricist. He was known for his unique homemade guitar with a rectangular base and for influencing a new genre of music in the 1950's that came to be known as rock and roll.

Among Bo Diddley's greatest contributions to rock-and-roll music were the use of blues influenced rhythms and beats and creating the musical melody commonly known as "shave-and-a-haircut/two bits." Famous Bo Diddley singles include, "Pretty Thing", "I'm a Man", and "Bo Diddley". He died June 2, 2008.

STAFF CONTACT

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