

Senate Resolution 744

By: Senators Jones of the 25th, Jordan of the 6th, Kirkpatrick of the 32nd, Williams of the 39th, Rhett of the 33rd and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring the life, memory, and legacy of Otis Redding, Jr., and recognizing February 15,
2 2018, as Otis Redding Day at the state capitol; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, born on September 9, 1941, in Dawson, Georgia, Otis Redding, Jr., moved to
4 Macon at an early age and attended Ballard Hudson High School; and

5 WHEREAS, Otis' prodigal gift for music became evident as he rose to prominence in the
6 Macon music scene, winning countless local contests and enchanting all who heard him
7 perform; and

8 WHEREAS, he cut his first hit single, "These Arms of Mine," at the age of 18 and its critical
9 and commercial success propelled Otis to national, and eventually international, stardom; and

10 WHEREAS, Otis Redding, Jr., wrote, composed, and produced many beloved songs over the
11 years and his stature grew larger with each release, culminating in his box office
12 record-setting tours across North America in which he performed to massive crowds of
13 adoring fans; and

14 WHEREAS, many covers of songs written and composed by Otis have gone on to become
15 landmarks of popular music, including The Black Crowes' rendition of "Hard to Handle" and
16 Aretha Franklin's rendition of "Respect," and his inescapable influence on the development
17 of soul music led to him being dubbed the King of Soul; and

18 WHEREAS, Otis was an entrepreneur, wisely investing his musical earnings in real estate,
19 livestock, stocks, and bonds, and eventually his penchant for business led him to form his
20 own label, Jotis Records; and

21 WHEREAS, he was a trailblazer in the struggle against segregation; his mixed race band
22 reflected his belief that music could be a universal force capable of uniting individuals from
23 all races, cultures, and ethnicities; and

24 WHEREAS, Otis tragically passed away in a plane crash three days after recording his
25 number one hit, "(Sittin' on) The Dock of The Bay"; and

26 WHEREAS, he was united in love and marriage to his wife, Zelma Atwood, and was blessed
27 with three remarkable children, Dexter, Karla, and Otis III; and Zelma would go on to adopt
28 Demetria after Otis' passing; and

29 WHEREAS, Otis was a person of magnanimous strengths with an unimpeachable reputation
30 for integrity, intelligence, fairness, and kindness, and by the example he made of his life, he
31 made this world a better place in which to live; and

32 WHEREAS, a compassionate and generous man, Otis will long be remembered for his love
33 of family and friendship, will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him,
34 and his music will continue to enchant, inspire, and mesmerize all who hear it for centuries
35 to come.

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
37 join in honoring the life, memory, and legacy of Otis Redding, Jr., and recognize
38 February 15, 2018, as Otis Redding Day at the state capitol.

39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
40 to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the family of Otis
41 Redding, Jr., the public, and the press.