

House Bill 326

By: Representatives Reeves of the 99th, Hilton of the 48th, Kennard of the 101st, McClain of the 109th, Mughal of the 105th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 holidays and observances, so as to designate January 17 as "Muhammad Ali Day"; to provide
3 legislative findings; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
4 purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 The General Assembly finds that:

- 8 (1) Muhammad Ali, through his unrelenting spirit to dream, bravery, humility, and
9 inspiring work ethic, committed himself to his passion for boxing and became, after
10 winning the heavy weight title three times, an Olympic gold medal, and a total of 56
11 matches during his 21-year professional career, the "Greatest Boxer of All Time";
12 (2) Mr. Ali was a dedicated philanthropist who helped battle hunger around the world,
13 worked with the Special Olympics and the Make A Wish Foundation, and vocalized
14 support for Parkinson's disease research;

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15 (3) Mr. Ali devoted himself to service and faith and brought honor to our nation by
16 relying on the courage he found in his faith to stand up against injustice;

17 (4) Mr. Ali, through his faith and love, committed himself to uniting our nation;

18 (5) Mr. Ali's dedication and perseverance continued throughout his life, even after he
19 was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease;

20 (6) Mr. Ali has a special connection with the city of Atlanta, where he not only lit the
21 cauldron at the 1996 Olympic Games but also, 26 years earlier, staged his comeback to
22 the ring in the old Atlanta Municipal Auditorium against Jerry Quarry;

23 (7) Mr. Ali is a source of inspiration for Georgia, the United States of America, and the
24 entire world; and

25 (8) It is abundantly fitting and proper that the State of Georgia appropriately recognize
26 and honor the life of Muhammad Ali by designating his birthday as "Muhammad Ali
27 Day" in Georgia and encouraging Georgians to remember his legacy and derive
28 inspiration from the six core principles that fueled his journey: confidence, conviction,
29 dedication, giving, respect, and spirituality.

30 **SECTION 2.**

31 Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to holidays and
32 observances, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

33 "1-4-15.2.

34 (a) January 17 of each year is designated as 'Muhammad Ali Day' in Georgia.

35 (b) Officials and departments of the state, educational institutions, members of the
36 media, and all citizens of Georgia are encouraged to participate in programs, displays,
37 and activities that pay tribute to the legacy of Muhammad Ali and derive inspiration from
38 his incredible life and the six core principles that fueled his journey: confidence,
39 conviction, dedication, giving, respect, and spirituality."

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SECTION 3.

41 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.