

By: The Entire Membership

To: Rules

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE ROBERT  
2 GEORGE CLARK FOR HIS MANY YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE  
3 STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Robert George Clark, Speaker Pro Tempore of the  
5 Mississippi House of Representatives, has dedicated over thirty  
6 years of service to the people in the State of Mississippi; and

7 WHEREAS, Speaker Clark, a native of Holmes County,  
8 Mississippi, earned an undergraduate degree from Jackson State  
9 University and a master's degree in administration and educational  
10 services from Michigan State University; and

11 WHEREAS, Speaker Clark also studied at Mississippi Valley  
12 State University, Florida A & M University and Western Michigan  
13 University and, in 1979, he was a teaching fellow of the John F.  
14 Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University; and

15 WHEREAS, representing District 47 and serving his eighth  
16 consecutive term in the House of Representatives, Speaker Clark  
17 initially sought election in hopes of providing adequate education  
18 for students in the rural hamlets of Mississippi; and

19 WHEREAS, in January 1992, Representative Clark was elected by  
20 his fellow legislators as the Speaker Pro Tempore of the  
21 Mississippi House of Representatives and was reelected to this  
22 position at the beginning of the 1996 session; and

23 WHEREAS, in 1977, Speaker Clark became the first Black  
24 committee chairman in the Mississippi House of Representatives as  
25 he was named Chairman of the Education Committee, a position he  
26 held for ten pivotal years of change and reform in Mississippi's

27 educational system; and

28 WHEREAS, as Chairman of the Education Committee, Speaker  
29 Clark led the House to pass the highly acclaimed 1982 Education  
30 Reform Act, the 1984 Vocational Education Reform Act and the  
31 Education Enhancement Act which provided Mississippi's schools  
32 with the necessary funds to repair schools in numerous school  
33 districts across the state; and

34 WHEREAS, during his legislative career, Speaker Clark has  
35 served as Chairman of the House Ethics Committee and Vice Chairman  
36 of the Apportionment and Elections Committee; and

37 WHEREAS, as Speaker Pro Tempore, he serves as Chairman of the  
38 House Management Committee, which oversees internal business  
39 affairs and personnel of the Mississippi House of Representatives,  
40 and he is the senior ranking member of Mississippi's Legislative  
41 Black Caucus; and

42 WHEREAS, Speaker Clark was one of the original members of the  
43 Board of Directors for Central Mississippi, Inc., an antipoverty  
44 program covering several counties in Central Mississippi which,  
45 among many other components, has a head start program that has  
46 been instrumental in giving vast numbers of rural children a jump  
47 start in preparedness for entering the mainstream public schools;  
48 and

49 WHEREAS, Speaker Clark also helped organize the Milton Olive  
50 III Memorial Corp. of Holmes County, an antipoverty program  
51 designed to provide essential medical care to individuals who were  
52 in the greatest need; and

53 WHEREAS, Speaker Clark served as Director of Project Second  
54 Start at Saints Junior College, an organization that focused on  
55 giving adults an opportunity to develop skills in various  
56 vocations that were necessary to increase their standard of living  
57 and leading them to better employment; and

58 WHEREAS, another community enrichment program Speaker Clark  
59 organized was the Fine Housing Enterprise program which was  
60 developed for the community to receive various forms of assistance  
61 allowing numerous poor families in the county to afford decent  
62 housing; and

63 WHEREAS, Speaker Clark has received numerous awards and

64 honors during his career, including the Alumnus of the Year Award  
65 from Jackson State University, the Award of Distinction and  
66 Outstanding Leadership Award from the University of Mississippi  
67 and the Outstanding Achievement Award for Education in  
68 Mississippi; and

69 WHEREAS, currently, Speaker Clark is working to bring a  
70 correctional facility to Holmes County and with little or no  
71 expense to the county, providing jobs to the residents and  
72 enabling young criminals to pay their dues to society while being  
73 detained close to home; and

74 WHEREAS, Speaker Clark has been lovingly supported in his  
75 endeavors by his lovely wife, the former Jo Ann Ross, and their  
76 children, LaLeche, Robert George III and Bryant Wandrick; and

77 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize  
78 and pay special tribute to such an outstanding Mississippian as  
79 Speaker Clark, a great pride to our state, for his immeasurable  
80 contributions on behalf of the people of the State of Mississippi  
81 during his long and distinguished career in public service:

82 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
83 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
84 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend our friend and colleague,  
85 Speaker Pro Tempore Robert George Clark upon his many  
86 accomplishments and express our heartfelt appreciation for his  
87 years of dedicated service to citizens of Mississippi.

88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
89 furnished to Speaker Pro Tempore Robert George Clark and to  
90 members of the Capitol Press Corps.