

By: The Entire Membership

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105
(As Adopted by House)

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.