

By: Frazier, Horhn

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 48

1 A RESOLUTION TO COMMEND MR. WASHINGTON JOHNSON, SR., AND DR.
2 MILDRED JOHNSON.

3 WHEREAS, Washington Johnson, Sr., was born March 21, 1925, to
4 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Johnson, Sr., of Birmingham, Alabama, the
5 second of six siblings; and

6 WHEREAS, in 1944, after graduating from West Field High
7 School in Birmingham, his goal was to attend Morehouse College in
8 Atlanta, Georgia; and

9 WHEREAS, with the outbreak of World War II, he was drafted
10 into the Air Force and after basic training was assigned to
11 Keesler's Field in Biloxi, Mississippi, the state's largest Air
12 Corps training field, where he served in the medical corps and was
13 able to share the love of God with the sick; and

14 WHEREAS, after the war, he received an honorable discharge
15 with many medals and ribbons from the country he loved, returning
16 home to enroll in college, and

17 WHEREAS, without warning his father died, placing the
18 responsibility of the family on his shoulders; at 22, when most of
19 his friends were graduating from college, he was working 10-12
20 hours a day for the United States Steel Company; once again his
21 dream seemed to have faded, but he promised God that if he ever
22 had children he would work hard and save so that they would be
23 able to attend college; and

24 WHEREAS, for 40 years, he worked faithfully and moved up the
25 ladder until he became a supervisor at the United States Steel
26 Company; and

27 WHEREAS, he is an elder in the Ephesus Seventh-Day Adventist
28 Church in Birmingham, Alabama, a member of the NAACP, the Urban
29 League, Adventist Men, Bush Hill Neighborhood Watch Program and
30 member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; and

31 WHEREAS, in 1992, he was invited with his wife to attend the
32 inauguration of the President of the United States by
33 Representative Tom Bevill of Alabama; and

34 WHEREAS, he enjoys working with people, and in 1995-1996
35 volunteered to work with AIDS patients in New York City, New York;
36 and

37 WHEREAS, Mildred Johnson was born May 3, 1930, to Mr. and
38 Mrs. Ernest Poole; her father was a mortician known throughout
39 Alabama and Mississippi; and

40 WHEREAS, in 1949, she graduated from Austin High School in
41 Chattanooga, Tennessee, and afterwards enrolled in nursing school
42 in Birmingham, Alabama; and

43 WHEREAS, she was married to Washington in 1950, and expecting
44 their first child a year later; they both agreed that she would
45 stay at home and later attend college, but her first priority was
46 to her family even if it meant delaying her education; and

47 WHEREAS, in 1963, their last child was born and Mildred began
48 to volunteer in their church's school; later she was hired as a
49 Bible instructor in the Seventh-Day Adventist Church; with her job
50 she taught Bible in Africa, Canada, China, the Caribbean Islands,
51 the State of Mississippi from the Delta to the Coast and
52 throughout the United States; and

53 WHEREAS, during this time she returned to college part-time
54 receiving an honorary Doctor of Human Letters from Birmingham
55 Theological Seminary in 1978, her BS in Criminal Justice in 1980,
56 and, in 1982, her Master's in Religious Education from Faith
57 College in Birmingham, Alabama; and

58 WHEREAS, Mrs. Johnson serves on the Board of Faith College,
59 Planning Committee for Women, Ministry of South Central

60 Conference, Oakwood College Evangelism Counsel, NAACP, Urban
61 League, and currently is writing a book on evangelism; and

62 WHEREAS, Washington and Mildred Johnson traveled to 10
63 countries in Europe in 1995; now retired, they both enjoy
64 traveling, gardening, working in the church and watching their
65 three grandchildren grow; and

66 WHEREAS, Mildred does not regret the decision that she made
67 to be a homemaker and to receive her education later in life; she
68 was there when they needed her to impress upon their young minds
69 faith in Christ and the importance of education; and

70 WHEREAS, because of their joint effort as a family unit,
71 their children have walked in the straight path because their
72 parents communicate love so that they would not have to go looking
73 for it in the wrong places; the church and their parents' faith in
74 Christ has been the foundation for their success; and

75 WHEREAS, the text that has been an anchor for Washington and
76 Mildred Johnson in raising six children is Proverbs 22:6 which
77 states, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is
78 old, he will not depart from it."; and

79 WHEREAS, one of their children, Washington Johnson, II,
80 graciously agreed to minister to the Senate on Wednesday, May 3,
81 2000, and to lead the opening invocation; and

82 WHEREAS, through their devotion to the power of education,
83 they provided college educations to all six of their children,
84 Washington Johnson, II, husband of Joyce Johnson and father of
85 Washington Johnson, III; Janice Anne Johnson-Browne, wife of
86 Benjamin Browne; Cynthia Yvette Johnson; Stephanie
87 Johnson-Dingome, wife of Jil Dingome; Rosalind Gail
88 Johnson-Adedokun, wife of Muyiwa Adedokun and mother of Kemi and
89 Deji; and Grayland Johnson; and

90 WHEREAS, Washington and Mildred Johnson, together with the
91 power of the Almighty God, accomplished what is unfortunately
92 extraordinary for many African-American families, providing

93 college and graduate degrees for all six of their children and
94 instilling in them the importance of Christian principles and
95 education:

96 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
97 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend Washington Johnson, Sr.,
98 and his wife, Dr. Mildred Johnson, for their devotion to their
99 children, to the value of education and to the betterment of their
100 race and to the betterment of America as a whole by the upright
101 lives they have led, and by the example they have given to their
102 children, grandchildren and to their church school, the E.E.
103 Rogers Seventh-Day Adventist Academy.

104 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
105 presented to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, their children and to the
106 principal of the academy.