

By: Harden, Posey, Williamson, To: Rules  
Chaney

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 14  
(As Adopted by Senate)

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE OF MARY BROWN GASTON OF  
2 JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF THE  
3 LEGISLATURE.

4 WHEREAS, Mrs. Mary Brown Gaston, a remarkable citizen of  
5 Jackson, Mississippi, passed away on August 27, 2000, at the age  
6 of 102 years; and

7 WHEREAS, Mrs. Mary Brown Gaston was the seventh of twelve  
8 children born to Mississippi sharecroppers Tom and Laura Brown,  
9 April 14, 1898, in Hinds County (Utica), Mississippi; and

10 WHEREAS, Mary Brown and Fred A. Gaston were married in 1921  
11 at the Rohelia Baptist Church. Her husband was a veteran of World  
12 War I (1918) and saw military assignment in France and Liverpool,  
13 England. Immediately following the wedding ceremony, the couple  
14 moved to Jackson and became affiliated with the New Mount Zion  
15 Baptist Church. She maintained her membership of seventy-four  
16 years - the longest tenure of any member of the congregation; and

17 WHEREAS, most of Mrs. Gaston's adult life was devoted to  
18 rearing children, nurturing them in a Christian home, to honor  
19 God; to love and respect family values while developing a passion  
20 for "learning." Although she only completed the fifth grade,  
21 attending school four months out of each year, she had a "zeal" to  
22 learn and passed it on to her children. She attended church  
23 services both at New Mount Zion, her "home church," and the Saint  
24 James Baptist church located across the street from her residence;  
25 she took pride in having a large garden, tilling the soil and  
26 sharing her "harvest yield" with her neighbors, as this also

27 supplemented food for the family and thereby assisted her husband,  
28 who was the sole provider outside the home; and

29 WHEREAS, Fred and Mary Gaston were pioneer homeowners,  
30 establishing residency in the Gowdy/Washington Addition Community  
31 (then considered the outskirts of Southwest Jackson) where she  
32 called home since 1921; and

33 WHEREAS, very industrious, Fred Gaston, her husband, worked  
34 for the Illinois Central Railroad Baggage Room for almost 50  
35 years; and

36 WHEREAS, Mary Brown Gaston was the proud mother of seven  
37 children, Lelia, Rosie, Esserlena, Katherine, Juanita, Fred and  
38 Eugene, all of whom graduated from high school and most completed  
39 college or professional school; and

40 WHEREAS, Mary Brown Gaston was the grandmother of eleven  
41 grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren; and

42 WHEREAS, she had an excellent memory of most of the  
43 experiences she encountered during her journey of 102 years and  
44 attributed her longevity to trusting in God, living a clean life  
45 and treating everybody right; and

46 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Mississippi believes  
47 that it is most appropriate to pay special tribute to such a  
48 remarkable Mississippian as Mrs. Mary Brown Gaston:

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
50 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the life of Mary Brown  
51 Gaston of Jackson, Mississippi, and express the sympathy of the  
52 Legislature upon her passing at the age of 102 years.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
54 furnished to the surviving family of Mary Brown Gaston and be made  
55 available to the Capitol Press Corps.