

By: The Entire Membership

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF  
2 REPRESENTATIVE JIMMY THORNTON AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO  
3 HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

4

5 WHEREAS, Representative Jimmy Thornton, born August 26, 1932,  
6 in Leland, Mississippi, departed this life on November 4, 2000,  
7 causing great loss and sorrow to his family, legislative  
8 colleagues and many friends; and

9 WHEREAS, Representative Thornton dedicated eight years of  
10 service to the people of District 50 of the Mississippi House of  
11 Representatives, which includes Bolivar and Washington Counties,  
12 by serving with honor and distinction as a member of the  
13 Apportionment and Elections, Investigation of State Offices, Oil,  
14 Gas and Other Minerals, Penitentiary and Transportation  
15 Committees; and

16 WHEREAS, Representative Thornton attended Coleman High School  
17 and Wendell Phillip High in Chicago and furthered his education at  
18 Arkansas AM&N College in Pine Bluff, where he received a degree in  
19 Industrial Arts and also completed barber school; and

20 WHEREAS, Representative Thornton, a philanthropist and avid  
21 civil rights participant, marched with some of the most prominent

22 NAACP leaders and local civil rights activists fighting for human  
23 rights; and

24 WHEREAS, Representative Thornton distinguished himself as  
25 highly revered among his peers by exhibiting unparalleled  
26 resistance to opposition and unpopularity, taking a strong stance  
27 for causes he believed in; and

28 WHEREAS, Representative Thornton stood firm in his efforts to  
29 change the form of government and to reapportion the City Council  
30 in Greenville, while simultaneously attacking issues to better  
31 society as a whole; and

32 WHEREAS, Representative Thornton proved to be a man of  
33 remarkable talent, serving in the United States Army Air  
34 Corps--the forerunner of the United States Air Force--and being  
35 skilled as a brick mason and an amateur boxer; and

36 WHEREAS, Representative Thornton also served as a police  
37 officer, advisor to Governor Cliff Finch, a blues public relations  
38 promoter and with the Department of Human Services; and

39 WHEREAS, Representative Thornton, in appreciation for his  
40 courage and commitment to serving the public, received numerous  
41 awards and acknowledgements, such as, Legislator of the Year Award  
42 from MAACC; Mississippi Firefighter Memorial Burn Association  
43 Medal of Distinction; Black Achievers Hall of Fame; Magnolia Bar  
44 Association, Inc. Award; Alpha Kappa Alpha Political Award;  
45 Friends of Education Leadership Award; and the Washington County  
46 NAACP Award, as well as many other honors and recognitions; and

47 WHEREAS, Representative Thornton was an active member of his  
48 community and involved in such organizations as the Serene Lodge  
49 #567 Elks, the Washington County Voter League, the NAACP, the  
50 Political Action Committee and the Mississippi Legislative Black  
51 Caucus; and

52 WHEREAS, in addition, Representative Thornton was a faithful

53 member of St. Matthew A.M.E. Church for 42 years, where he served  
54 as an active member of the Steward Board and as the pastor's  
55 personal steward for more than 20 years; and

56 WHEREAS, Representative Thornton is survived by his loving  
57 and devoted wife, Lillie G. Thornton, and their children,  
58 Jermaine, Jamar, Ian, Jacques, Shelia, Tina, Dwight, Marsha and  
59 Quincy; and

60 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize  
61 and commend outstanding public servants such as Representative  
62 Jimmy Thornton, who distinguished himself as a highly revered  
63 legislator, dedicated to improving the quality of life for all  
64 Mississippians:

65 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
66 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
67 commend the life and accomplishments of our friend and colleague,  
68 Representative Jimmy Thornton, and express our deepest  
69 appreciation for the tremendous example of character, courage and  
70 humanitarianism that Representative Thornton displayed as an  
71 outstanding leader and citizen of the State of Mississippi.

72 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we do hereby express and extend  
73 our heartfelt sympathy to the devoted wife and family of  
74 Representative Jimmy Thornton upon the demise of this fine  
75 gentleman and public servant.

76 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
77 furnished to the family of Representative Jimmy Thornton and the  
78 Capitol Press Corps.