

By: Senator(s) Frazier

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 20

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING REVEREND EARL WARD FOR HIS DEVOTED
2 MINISTRY AND CONGRATULATING HIM UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS 23RD-YEAR
3 ANNIVERSARY OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO ST. JOHN M.B. CHURCH OF UTICA,
4 MISSISSIPPI.

5 WHEREAS, Reverend Earl Ward was born in Rankin County,
6 Mississippi, to the late Samuel "Doc" Ward and Melissa Bozeman
7 Ward on September 25, 1920, and he is the fifth child of nine
8 siblings born to this union; and

9 WHEREAS, Reverend Earl Ward was united in holy matrimony to
10 the lovely Ms. Earnestine Holcomb on July 4, 1946, and they were
11 blessed with five beautiful children: Wanda Joyce Ward-Moncure,
12 Earl W. Ward, Jr., Connett H. Ward, Antoniques S. Ward and Keisi
13 Debora B. Ward; and

14 WHEREAS, they are the proud grandparents of seventeen
15 grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren; and

16 WHEREAS, he was called into the ministry in the late 1950s
17 and has remained a dedicated and faithful clergyman; and

18 WHEREAS, he is the Pastor of St. John M.B. Church in Utica,
19 Mississippi, where he has served from March 1978 until the
20 present; he was elected Pastor of Morning Star M.B. Church in
21 Star, Mississippi, July 1980, and currently serves as their
22 Honorary Pastor; and

23 WHEREAS, under Rev. Earl Ward's leadership, bible class was
24 organized, third Sunday worship service was established for the
25 youth in the community, and Rev. James Roby, Jr., was elected as
26 Assistant Pastor of St. John M.B. Church; and

27 WHEREAS, he often invited the youth to attend St. John's
28 worship service, especially those whom he observed playing in the
29 streets while on his way to church; and

30 WHEREAS, Reverend and Mrs. Earl Ward's perpetual love and
31 concern is compassionately shown toward those readily in need; and

32 WHEREAS, many times after worship service, Reverend and Mrs.
33 Earl Ward, accompanied by some of the deacons, visited the sick
34 and shut-ins to administer the Lord's Supper; and

35 WHEREAS, occasionally ill, Reverend Earl Ward insisted on
36 conducting Sunday morning worship services because of his
37 obligation to God, family, and his congregation; and

38 WHEREAS, Reverend and Mrs. Earl Ward's leadership is
39 exemplified beyond the boundaries of their home, but is prevalent
40 throughout the community; and

41 WHEREAS, Reverend Earl Ward taught bible studies at other
42 churches within the surrounding area, such as: Pilgrim Rest M.B.
43 Church and Salem M.B. Church in Terry, Mississippi, and Clear
44 Creek #2 M.B. Church in Crystal Springs, Mississippi; and

45 WHEREAS, Reverend Earl Ward often expressed his love and
46 appreciation for the musical talent of the Junior and Senior
47 Choirs of St. John M.B. Church; and

48 WHEREAS, Reverend Earl Ward's willful labor in the ministry
49 was always supported by his wife, who walked wholeheartedly with
50 him without reservation; and

51 WHEREAS, upon reflection of the life of Reverend Earl Ward
52 and his loyal and devoted wife, Mrs. Earnestine Holcomb Ward, it
53 can be said that their tenure has truly been a blessing to St.
54 John M.B. Church; and

55 WHEREAS, under the tireless devotion and unselfish leadership
56 of Reverend and Mrs. Earl Ward, St. John M.B. Church is assured in
57 knowing that the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; and
58 he delighteth in his way; and

59 WHEREAS, the congregation of St. John M.B. Church honors
60 Reverend Earl Ward on March 4, 2001, for twenty-three years of
61 dedicated service; and

62 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that the Senate of the State
63 of Mississippi recognize and commend the dedicated and devoted
64 service of the citizens of this state:

65 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
66 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend Reverend Earl Ward for his
67 ministry and service to St. John M.B. Church and the surrounding
68 community, and wish him continued success in his future endeavors.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
70 presented to Reverend Earl Ward.