

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.