

By: Senator(s) Harden

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 50

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MRS. JESSIE LEE
2 BRYANT CLARK (DEAR) ON THE OCCASION OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY AND FOR
3 HER DEDICATED COMMUNITY SERVICES.

4 WHEREAS, Mrs. Jessie Lee Bryant Clark (Dear) was born on May
5 4, 1902, at Holly Bluff, Yazoo County, Mississippi. It was here
6 that she spent her childhood and young adult life with her
7 parents, William and Mary Elisha Bryant, and her 15 siblings. Her
8 parents were farmers. Therefore, Jessie learned the kind of work
9 and skills that contributed to survival in a time when hard work
10 and thrift were essential; and

11 WHEREAS, she attended Bayland School where her daily walk
12 provided the only opportunity that the State of Mississippi
13 afforded people of color to acquire secondary schooling. A great
14 deal of her training was obtained through the Sunday School and
15 youth activities of her church. Her continuing education was
16 obtained later as she monitored the homework and daily lessons of
17 her seven children; and

18 WHEREAS, in 1924, she married Lee Andrew Clark, a minister in
19 the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The marriage generated a
20 move from the Mississippi Delta with its rich black soil to the
21 hills of Mississippi with its red clay. This move was one of the
22 many moves made by Jessie during her lifetime. The next move was
23 to Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi. Later, there were moves to
24 Gulfport, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Benton and a final move to what
25 would become the permanent home for the Clark family in Jackson,
26 Mississippi. The family home was built at 1001 Randall Street;
27 and



28 WHEREAS, Jessie lived the life of a minister's wife, raised
29 her family and managed the home on the small income from the
30 church. To make ends meet, she raised chickens, pigs and gardens,
31 canned fruits and vegetables, and quilted quilts. She has quilted
32 quite a few in her lifetime. Her quilts tell the story of
33 dresses, pants and suits worn by family members over the years.
34 Quilts quilted by her are in the homes of all the children,
35 grandchildren and friends. Even though she says she will not
36 quilt another one, there is a collection of quilting material
37 being collected even as we speak; and

38 WHEREAS, Jessie is an active member of New Bethel African
39 Methodist Episcopal Church in Jackson, Mississippi. She attended
40 Sunday School and worship services weekly as well as other
41 scheduled services and meetings until recent health problems.
42 Jessie is a member of the Sunday School, the Missionary Society
43 and Stewardess Board #2. She serves as a consultant to the
44 Missionary Society of the Eighth Episcopal District of the African
45 Methodist Episcopal Church and she has served as a member of the
46 Steward Board, the choir and the Lay Organization and is a former
47 Sunday School Teacher. She is a member of the Minister's Wives
48 Organization; and

49 WHEREAS, she has been recognized for her community services.
50 She continues to mentor young people and to instill in them daily
51 the moral values of Christianity. Her favorite scripture is the
52 Twenty-Third Psalm, and her favorite song is "I want Jesus to Walk
53 with Me"; and

54 WHEREAS, Dear's immediate family consisted of her husband,
55 Reverend Lee Andrew Clark, Sr., and their seven children - four
56 boys and three girls - Lee Andrew, Jr., Sidney Lawrence, Vester
57 Lee, Annie Mary, Madison Columbus, Ethel Salenia and Howard
58 William. She has 12 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and
59 four great-great grandchildren. Of course, her family now extends
60 beyond this. It includes a sister, a sister-in-law,



61 daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, nieces, nephews, and other
62 relatives and friends; and

63 WHEREAS, after her children were grown and when Jessie became
64 a widow, she acquired a new hobby, traveling. She not only has
65 the time to do so but has a very strong desire for it. One of her
66 biggest thrills was to have gone West to the Pacific Ocean, East
67 to the Atlantic Ocean, South to the Gulf of Mexico and North to
68 Canada; and

69 WHEREAS, Mrs. Clark attributes her longevity to God's
70 blessings. She relies very much on God's guidance. "When I
71 become weak," she says, "He just carries me on." Mrs. Clark
72 further stated that she loves the Lord, the church and its works.
73 To her, it was a great pleasure to raise her family and to support
74 her husband in the work of the church:

75 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
76 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Mrs.
77 Jessie Lee Bryant Clark (Dear) on the occasion of her 100th
78 birthday and for her dedicated community services, and wish her
79 the very best returns of the day and success in her future
80 endeavors.

81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
82 Mrs. Clark and her family, and be made available to the Capitol
83 Press Corps.

