

By: Senator(s) Blackmon, Simmons, Jordan,  
Jackson, Turner, Walls, Johnson (38th),  
Harden, Frazier

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 84

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING ROBERT GEORGE CLARK FOR HIS  
2 OUTSTANDING LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND DEDICATED SERVICE TO  
3 THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, House Speaker Pro Tempore Robert George Clark, the  
5 first African-American elected to the Mississippi Legislature  
6 since Reconstruction, is completing 35 years of outstanding,  
7 dedicated service as a member of the Mississippi House of  
8 Representatives from District 47 (Attala, Holmes and Yazoo  
9 Counties); and

10 WHEREAS, he is completing a third 4-year term as Speaker Pro  
11 Tempore of the House of Representative, of which he was elected to  
12 the second top leadership post in 1992. As Speaker Pro Tempore,  
13 he presides in the absence of the Speaker and serves as ex officio  
14 Chairman of the House Management Committee and ex officio member  
15 of the House Rules Committee; and

16 WHEREAS, Robert George Clark, a Democrat from Ebenezer,  
17 Mississippi, was elected in 1967 during a time of racial unrest in  
18 the South, arriving at the State House of Representatives two  
19 years after passage of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. His  
20 35-year tenure in the Mississippi House of Representatives  
21 symbolized the fight for change and a better society for all  
22 Mississippians; and

23 WHEREAS, over the years since his election to the House of  
24 Representatives, Robert George Clark has gained stature in the  
25 Mississippi Legislature, rising from a freshman lawmaker to House  
26 Education Committee Chairman, handling and authoring the historic  
27 Education Reform Act of 1982; and



28           WHEREAS, Robert George Clark's leadership with the members of  
29 the Mississippi Legislature in the passage of education reform  
30 legislation was outstanding, especially regarding the sales tax  
31 increase issue, where he exhibited a "great deal of determination  
32 in a very subtle, inoffensive manner" according to longtime friend  
33 and colleague Representative Jim Simpson; and

34           WHEREAS, he was born on October 3, 1928, in Ebenezer,  
35 Mississippi; educated at Durant Training School, Jackson State  
36 University, Mississippi Valley State University, Florida A&M  
37 University and Michigan State University; he was a teacher, coach,  
38 businessman and rancher; he is a faithful member of the Baptist  
39 Church and the Elks; he is a member of the Mississippi Action for  
40 Community Education, the Holmes County Union for Progress and the  
41 Holmes County 21st Century Commission; he is married to the former  
42 Jo Ann Ross, and they have three children: Bryant Wandrick, La  
43 Leche Seay and Robert George III; and

44           WHEREAS, he is the subject of a new book, *Robert G. Clark's*  
45 *Journey to the House: A Black Politician's Story*, by Will D.  
46 Campbell which fuses Clark's family history with his political  
47 career, and the continued influence of his work on contemporary  
48 Mississippi politics and culture; and

49           WHEREAS, Robert George Clark's journey to the House of  
50 Representatives unites one of Mississippi's foremost citizens of  
51 the Twentieth Century and one of the state's most notable literary  
52 voices; and

53           WHEREAS, Speaker Robert George Clark has been praised for his  
54 vision and ability to sit down and work things out, and has  
55 provided constructive leadership, coupled with a keen  
56 understanding of the issues facing Mississippi; and

57           WHEREAS, the members of the Senate express their sincere  
58 appreciation to The Honorable Robert George Clark, Speaker Pro  
59 Tempore, for his outstanding accomplishments and dedicated public



60 service to the citizens of Mississippi upon the occasion of his  
61 retirement at the expiration of his term:

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
63 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend our friend, colleague and  
64 leader, The Honorable Robert George Clark, Speaker Pro Tempore,  
65 for his unmatched contributions to the Mississippi Legislature and  
66 the citizens of the State of Mississippi.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
68 Speaker Pro Tempore Robert George Clark and be made available to  
69 the Capitol Press Corps.

