

By: Representative Watson

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 40

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE OF HELEN W. CURTIS (BIG TOD)  
2 AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HER  
3 PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, Helen W. Curtis (Big Tod), born September 7, 1914,  
5 to Mr. and Mrs. William Leon McFarland, departed this earthly life  
6 to enter into eternal rest with her heavenly Father on Saturday,  
7 February 28, 2004, causing great sorrow and loss to her family and  
8 friends; and

9 WHEREAS, reared in Newton, Mississippi, Mrs. Curtis graduated  
10 from Newton Vocational High School and furthered her education  
11 through the University of Southern Mississippi and Tuskegee  
12 Institute; and

13 WHEREAS, Mrs. Curtis devoted more than 30 years of her life  
14 to various civic works in her community and Hattiesburg for the  
15 betterment of the black movement; and

16 WHEREAS, in the span of her years of service beginning in the  
17 1960s, she served in several clubs, organizations, church and  
18 professional committees until her health began to fail; and

19 WHEREAS, Mrs. Curtis was a member of the Parent Teacher  
20 Associations/Organizations at Grace Love, Little Burney and  
21 Hattiesburg High School, member of the Jennie Brown Circle,  
22 Forrest County NAACP, United Methodist Women, NAACP Advisory  
23 Committee, Sunday School youth teacher, Neighborhood Enhancement,  
24 Voters' Registration Committee, Retarded Association for Special  
25 Education Students and organizer of the Gift for Christ Program at  
26 St. Paul United Methodist Church; and

27           WHEREAS, for her service, Mrs. Curtis was a three time  
28 recipient of the NAACP Mother of the Year Award, in addition to  
29 being named the Long Distance Runner for St. Paul United Methodist  
30 Church, Mother of the Year for the NAACP; and

31           WHEREAS, though she has traversed the waters of life to now  
32 stand on the golden heavenly shores, Mrs. Curtis' legacy will  
33 forever live on in the hearts and memories of her survivors,  
34 including: son, Malcolm Curtis, Jr.; daughter-in-law, Gwendolyn  
35 Curtis; three grandsons, Malcolm (Ebony) Curtis III, Kelley D.  
36 Curtis and George E. Curtis; four sisters, Yvonne W. McFarland,  
37 Joy M. Griffith, Julia P. Babbs and Bennye K. Seraile; and a host  
38 of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends; and

39           WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
40 commend the lives of such remarkable individuals as Mrs. Curtis,  
41 whose life and services transcended the barriers of race, culture  
42 and social status to make a positive difference in the lives of  
43 many Mississippians:

44           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
45 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
46 commend the life of Mrs. Helen W. Curtis (Big Tod) and express  
47 deepest sympathy to her family and friends upon her passing.

48           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
49 furnished to the family of Mrs. Helen W. Curtis and to the members  
50 of the Capitol Press Corps.