

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.