

By: Representatives Smith (27th), Flaggs,
Stevens, Harrison, Coleman (29th), Bailey,
Blackmon, Bondurant, Broomfield, Buck,
Burnett, Calhoun, Clark, Clarke, Dickson,
Ellis, Espy, Fleming, Fredericks, Gibbs,
Green, Hines, Holloway, Huddleston, Malone, McCoy, Middleton, Morris,
Myers, Perkins, Robinson (63rd), Scott, Straughter, Thomas, Watson,
West, Whittington, Young

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 107

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE, CONTRIBUTIONS OF MRS.
2 WINSON HUDSON FOR HER MANY OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING THE
3 CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER
4 FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HER PASSING.

5 WHEREAS, Mrs. Winson Hudson was born on November 17, 1916, in
6 the all African-American community of Harmony, Mississippi, in
7 Leake County, departed this earthly life to enter into eternal
8 rest on Saturday, April 24, 2004, causing great sorrow and loss to
9 her family and friends; and

10 WHEREAS, Mrs. Hudson, along with her sister, Dovie, emerged
11 as courageous leaders in the freedom struggle in the early 1960s
12 and filed the first suit for school desegregation in a rural
13 Mississippi county; and

14 WHEREAS, having been one of the first to register to vote,
15 Mrs. Hudson became involved in the NAACP and was elected president
16 of the county chapter and served for the next 38 years; and

17 WHEREAS, subjected to harassment and threats of violence,
18 Mrs. Hudson appeared before the United States Commission on Civil
19 Rights in February of 1965 to speak about the harassment of her
20 fellow neighbors who were being harassed while attempting to
21 register to vote; and

22 WHEREAS, Mrs. Hudson was instrumental in the establishment of
23 the first Head Start program in Leake County, voter registration
24 drives, the integration of the Holiday Inn in Clarksdale, and
25 helped with the efforts to desegregate all public facilities in
26 Carthage, Mississippi; and

27 WHEREAS, Mrs. Hudson has been recognized for many outstanding
28 accomplishments, including serving as a delegate to the Democratic

29 National Convention in 1976 and was presented the Fannie Lou Hamer
30 Award by the Mississippi Democratic Party in 1989; and

31 WHEREAS, in 1989, Mrs. Hudson attended the opening of Brian
32 Lanker's photographic exhibition, "I Dream A World: Portraits of
33 Black Women Who Changed America," at the Corcoran Gallery in
34 Washington, D.C., which featured a photo of Mrs. Hudson and her
35 sister; and

36 WHEREAS, Mrs. Hudson testified on behalf of Mississippi's
37 poor citizens before President Bill Clinton's Health Reform Task
38 Committee in Washington, D.C., in 1994; and

39 WHEREAS, in the fall of 2002, Mrs. Hudson fulfilled her
40 life-long dream and heart's desire with the publication of her
41 book, Mississippi Harmony, Memoirs of a Freedom Fighter; and

42 WHEREAS, the life of Mrs. Hudson was as the beauty and
43 fragrance of flowers that brighten the countryside, and not lived
44 in vain, for it filled its place in the world and will forever
45 fill a place in the hearts and memories of her loved ones; and

46 WHEREAS, her soul is safe with the Heavenly Father to dwell
47 throughout eternity, we give thanks to Almighty God for Mrs.
48 Hudson's life, and honor her legacy along with her survivors; and

49 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives of
50 the State of Mississippi to recognize and commend the lives of
51 outstanding citizens such as Mrs. Hudson, who dedicated her life
52 to improving the quality of life for people everywhere:

53 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
54 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
55 commend the life of Mrs. Winson Hudson for her many outstanding
56 contributions to the civil rights movement and express deepest
57 sympathy to her family and friends upon her passing.

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
59 furnished to the family of Mrs. Winson Hudson and to the members
60 of the Capitol Press Corps.