

By: Representative Straughter

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 121

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING MRS. VERSIE V. JONES NELSON FOR HER
2 MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO JONESTOWN COMMUNITY AND SERVICES TO ST.
3 EMMANUEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH.

4 WHEREAS, Mrs. Versie Vera Jones Nelson was born May 23, 1915,
5 to Mr. Meadie Jones and Mrs. Lou Ella Jackson Jones, the fourth of
6 nine children; and

7 WHEREAS, having lived her entire life in the Jonestown
8 Community of Yazoo City, Mississippi, and the only surviving
9 original resident, Mrs. Nelson attended the two-room Jonestown
10 School taught by Mrs. Anna Walker before transferring to the No. 2
11 School in Yazoo City, where she had to pay a Three-Dollar monthly
12 attendance tuition and walk two miles daily; and

13 WHEREAS, at the conclusion of her formal educational career,
14 she went to work for the family business at her sister's
15 restaurant, Hallie B. Fox Hamburgers, before gaining employment
16 with the Barbour family, where she helped rear Governor Haley
17 Barbour; and

18 WHEREAS, having acknowledged her faith in Christ, Mrs. Nelson
19 began her Christian walk at an early age by becoming a member of
20 St. Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church under Reverend S.A. Jones,
21 and has remained a faithful and devoted member thereof since her
22 baptism in the Old Yazoo River; and

23 WHEREAS, during her membership at St. Emmanuel, Mrs. Nelson
24 has rarely missed a Sunday service and has served as church
25 secretary, choir president and Sunday school superintendent, a
26 position she currently maintains; and

27 WHEREAS, Mrs. Nelson, known for her loving and gracious
28 personality, was married to Booker Nelson and mothered one child,
29 a daughter, Doris Nelson Jones; and

30 WHEREAS, Mrs. Nelson, known most extensively as "Mrs.
31 Butter," is considered the community historian because of her
32 longevity in the community and her ability to vividly recount the
33 community's rich historical timeline, including how the community
34 came to be known as Jonestown, the 1933 Tornado that swept through
35 the community flooding her home and many others, the Yazoo Clinic
36 (the community hospital), the community's only two churches, the
37 cemetery and the names of every family that lived in Jonestown;
38 and

39 WHEREAS, widely respected in the Jonestown and Yazoo City
40 communities, Mrs. Nelson's humble and genteel spirit makes it a
41 joyous occasion to share fellowship with her; and

42 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
43 recognize and commend such outstanding individuals as Mrs. Nelson,
44 whose life is a beacon of hope and a wealth of history to many up
45 and coming generations of Jonestown inhabitants:

46 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
47 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
48 commend Mrs. Versie V. Jones Nelson for her many outstanding
49 contributions to the Jonestown community and to the St. Emmanuel
50 Missionary Baptist Church.

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
52 furnished to Mrs. Versie Nelson and to the members of the Capitol
53 Press Corps.