

By: Representative Robinson (63rd)

To: Rules

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 103

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING UNITED STATES OLYMPIAN AND  
2 OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST, OTIS HARRIS, UPON HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND  
3 FOR HIS TRIUMPHANT SUCCESS DURING THE 2004 SUMMER OLYMPICS.

4 WHEREAS, on August 28, 2004, Otis Harris, a native of  
5 Edwards, Mississippi, and graduate of Hinds County Agricultural  
6 High School (Hinds AHS), accomplished every Olympian's dream,  
7 capturing an Olympic Gold Medal in the 2004 Olympic Summer Games  
8 in Athens, Greece; and

9 WHEREAS, Harris became the hometown hero when he won the  
10 silver medal for the 400 meter dash on August 23, 2004, running  
11 the fastest time of his life by posting a time of 44.16 seconds,  
12 only to be exceeded by his 43.28 seconds time in the first and  
13 fastest leg of the 4x400 meter relay, which sealed the Gold Medal  
14 for the United States; and

15 WHEREAS, Otis, a senior at the University of South Carolina  
16 (USC), earned his trip to the Summer Olympics by finishing second  
17 in the men's 400 meter dash finals at the United States Track and  
18 Field Trials held in July in Sacramento, California; and

19 WHEREAS, while at Hinds AHS, Otis led his track team to Class  
20 2A state titles in 1999 and 2000, winning the 100, 200 and 400  
21 meters each season; and

22 WHEREAS, a National Champion in Junior Olympics for two  
23 consecutive years, Harris was a first-team All-American in the 400  
24 meter as a senior at Hinds AHS and won the Footlocker Outdoor  
25 Championship and the Golden West Invitational, being named Most  
26 Valuable Player in track and Most Outstanding Track Athlete, as

27 well as lettering in football as defensive back and wide receiver;  
28 and

29 WHEREAS, having gone on to become an All-American sprinter at  
30 the University of South Carolina, Otis competed in track for three  
31 seasons, topping USC's record in 2003 with a time of 45.08 in the  
32 400 meter semifinal at the National College Athletic Association  
33 (NCAA) Outdoor Championships and shattering the school's record in  
34 the NCAA finals with a time of 44.57; and

35 WHEREAS, labeled an underdog from the outset of his mission,  
36 Otis surprised a nation and a world with his undaunted spirit,  
37 ambition and unshakeable faith in God as he catapulted from humble  
38 Mississippi beginnings to international stardom; and

39 WHEREAS, at 22 years of age, Otis has been supported in his  
40 every endeavor by his biggest and most supportive fans, his  
41 parents, Otis and Cheryl Harris, and high school track coach,  
42 James Battle; and

43 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that this Legislature  
44 recognizes the superior exhibition of perseverance, promise and  
45 sportsmanship of Otis Harris, whose athletic accomplishments have  
46 brought great honor to himself, his family, the State of  
47 Mississippi and the entire United States:

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
49 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
50 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend and congratulate Olympic Gold  
51 and Silver Medalist, Otis Harris, Jr., upon his accomplishments  
52 and triumphant success during the 2004 Summer Olympics.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
54 furnished to Otis Harris, Jr., and to the members of the Capitol  
55 Press Corps.