

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.