

By: Representatives Flagg, Bailey,  
Broomfield, Buck, Burnett, Clark, Coleman  
(29th), Coleman (65th), Espy, Fredericks,  
Hines, Smith (27th), Johnson, Scott, Fleming,  
Perkins, Ellis

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 102

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND EXCEPTIONAL CAREER OF  
2 JOHNNIE L. COCHRAN, JR., AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS  
3 FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr., born October 2, 1937, in  
5 Shreveport, Louisiana, to Johnnie L. Cochran, Sr., and Hattie Bass  
6 Cochran, departed this earthly life on Tuesday, March 29, 2005, to  
7 enter into eternal rest with his Heavenly Father, causing great  
8 sorrow and loss to his family and friends; and

9 WHEREAS, with a father and mother who stressed education,  
10 independence, and a color-blind attitude, Cochran earned a  
11 bachelor's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles,  
12 in 1959, was accepted by the Loyola Marymount University School of  
13 Law, finished his law studies and passed the California bar by  
14 1963; and

15 WHEREAS, Cochran took his first job with the City of Los  
16 Angeles, serving as a Deputy City Attorney in the Criminal  
17 Division that same year and remained there as prosecutor, before  
18 entering private practice in 1965 with the late Gerald Lenoir and  
19 later forming his own firm, Cochran, Atkins & Evans; and

20 WHEREAS, headline-grabbing cases quickly made Cochran's name  
21 among the Black community in Los Angeles, and by the late 1970s he  
22 was handling a number of police brutality and other criminal  
23 cases; and

24 WHEREAS, Cochran established himself as "the best in the  
25 West," to quote *Ebony* magazine, and became the masterful attorney  
26 who gained prominence and worldwide fame for successfully  
27 defending football star, O.J. Simpson; and

28           WHEREAS, resplendently tailored and silky-voiced, clever and  
29 genteel, Cochran came to epitomize the formidable litigator,  
30 sought after by the famous and wealthy, the obscure and  
31 struggling, all believing that they were victims of the system in  
32 one way or another; and

33           WHEREAS, the course of Cochran's four-decade career zigzagged  
34 across the legal landscape, starting in the Los Angeles City  
35 Attorney's Office, where he eagerly prosecuted drunk-driving  
36 cases, and ending in a private practice that earned him wealth and  
37 fame; and

38           WHEREAS, Cochran is survived by his wife, Dale Mason Cochran;  
39 son, Jonathan; daughters, Tiffany Cochran Edwards and Melodie  
40 Cochran; sisters, Pearl Baker and Martha Jean Sherrard; and  
41 father, Johnnie L. Cochran, Sr.; and

42           WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
43 commend the lives of such a notable icon in the legal profession  
44 as Johnnie L. Cochran:

45           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
46 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
47 commend the life of Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr., and express deepest  
48 sympathy to his family and friends upon his passing.

49           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
50 furnished to the family of Mr. Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr., and to the  
51 members of the Capitol Press Corps.