

By: Representative Barnett

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 7

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE EXTRAORDINARY ARTWORK, SCULPTURE
2 AND STATUES CREATED BY BROOKHAVEN'S DR. J. KIM SESSUMS.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. J. Kim Sessums is a respected physician in
4 Brookhaven, Mississippi, but he has become famous and highly
5 regarded for his avocation, which is artwork and sculpture; and

6 WHEREAS, artwork by Dr. Sessums ranges from graphite pencil
7 drawings to bronze busts and statues to monument-size pieces, such
8 as the African-American Monument in the Vicksburg National
9 Military Park which was recently dedicated; and

10 WHEREAS, after getting his medical degree from the University
11 of Mississippi, Dr. Sessums came to Brookhaven in 1988. Regarding
12 his artistic and medical abilities, Dr. Sessums said he did not
13 want to be found "lazy" by not using the gifts that God gave him;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, after developing a reputation for quality graphite
16 drawings and pastels, the Brookhaven artist is now making a name
17 for himself in the world of sculpture. Dr. Sessums said he
18 strives to go beyond an object's or person's physical features to
19 capture the emotion and essence of the subject. To do that, he
20 relies on his research; and

21 WHEREAS, Dr. Sessums said he still does some commission work,
22 but he is selective about what projects he takes on. He said a
23 graphite pencil drawing takes about 30 to 40 hours to complete.
24 While drawing and painting since 1976, Dr. Sessums has been doing
25 sculptures since 1995; and

26 WHEREAS, Dr. Sessums made three bronze busts early in his
27 career. They were of famed artist Andrew Wyeth, Mississippi

28 author, Eudora Welty, and Evangelist, The Reverend Billy Graham.
29 These pieces are in the private collections of those individuals.
30 Today, Dr. Sessums has completed 25 sculptures of various
31 subjects; and

32 WHEREAS, Dr. Sessums took on his largest project a few years
33 ago when he was selected to design a larger-than-life size
34 monument recognizing black soldiers' contributions during the
35 Civil War. In February 2004, it was unveiled at the Vicksburg
36 National Military Park; and

37 WHEREAS, although his reputation as an artist continues to
38 grow, Dr. Sessums said he will maintain his medical practice; and

39 WHEREAS, Dr. Sessums and his wife, Kristy, have been married
40 for 25 years, and are blessed with four children: Jake, Joey,
41 Stewart and Price. The Sessums family attends Faith Presbyterian
42 Church, where Kim is an Elder; and

43 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we recognize the unique
44 accomplishments of this physician whose passion for art and
45 sculpture has brought honor to his community and to the State of
46 Mississippi:

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
48 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
49 commend the extraordinary artwork, sculpture and statues created
50 by Dr. J. Kim Sessums, and extend to him and his family best
51 wishes for success in all of his future endeavors.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
53 furnished to Dr. Sessums and to the Capitol Press Corps.