

By: Representative Banks

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 114

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING DR. GENE CORNELIUS YOUNG ON HIS CIVIL  
2 RIGHTS CONTRIBUTIONS AND HIS OUTSTANDING CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

3 WHEREAS, Dr. Gene Cornelius Young has made many exceptional  
4 contributions to civil rights and has had an outstanding career in  
5 the education field and is a renowned speaker; and

6 WHEREAS, the son of the loving Mrs. Beatrice Young and the  
7 late James I. Young, Dr. Young became an advocate for civil rights  
8 at an early age and was arrested twice in 1963 at the age of  
9 twelve for his participating in civil rights demonstrations in  
10 Jackson, Mississippi; and

11 WHEREAS, as a youth who had the desire to promote justice,  
12 peace and equality for all, Dr. Young attended the historic March  
13 on Washington where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his  
14 famous "I Have A Dream" speech in August 1963; and

15 WHEREAS, Dr. Young, after his first arrest for demonstrating  
16 at the age of twelve, stood on a chair and spoke before a  
17 capacity-filled audience at the Masonic Temple on Lynch Street  
18 just days before the assassination of Medgar Evers who Dr. Young  
19 knew well; and

20 WHEREAS, Dr. Young's speech as a child was recounted in The  
21 Ghosts of Mississippi: The Murder of Medgar Evers, The Trial of  
22 Byron de la Beckwith and the Haunting of the New South which is  
23 authored by Maryanne Volleys; and

24 WHEREAS, Dr. Young has also been written about in Anne  
25 Moody's Coming of Age in Mississippi and in Tim Spofford's Lynch  
26 Street: The May 1970 Slayings at Jackson State College and was  
27 given credit in the memoirs of Jackson State University

28 President-Emeritus, Dr. John A. Peoples, for calming a crowd of  
29 students in the aftermath of the murders at the college; and

30 WHEREAS, a graduate of Lanier High School, Dr. Young  
31 graduated with honors from Jackson State University in 1972 and  
32 then attended the University of Connecticut in Storrs where he  
33 received a Master of Arts and a Ph.D., and later served for six  
34 years as the Director of the Black Studies Program at Bradley  
35 University in Peoria, Illinois; and

36 WHEREAS, a former assistant professor of Speech and English,  
37 Dr. Young has also worked in numerous academic and administrative  
38 positions at his alma mater, Jackson State University; and

39 WHEREAS, Dr. Young, who is the father of Joy Olivia and the  
40 late Julius Caza, has continued to be an activist in his community  
41 and has served various committees and organizations which include  
42 serving on the host committee for the 30th Anniversary Freedom  
43 Riders Conference and the national steering committee for the 30th  
44 anniversary Freedom Summer Revisited Conference at Tougaloo  
45 College; and

46 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
47 recognize and pay special tribute to outstanding Mississippians  
48 such as Dr. Gene Cornelius Young who kept his eyes on the prize  
49 and helped secure civil rights for African Americans which in turn  
50 promotes equality for all:

51 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
52 REPRESENTATIVES, That we commend Dr. Gene C. Young for his  
53 exceptional contributions to civil rights and the field of  
54 education and extend to him our heartiest wishes for success in  
55 all his future endeavors.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
57 furnished to Dr. Gene C. Young, Jackson State University and  
58 members of the Capitol Press Corps.