

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.