

By: Senator(s) Jackson (11th)

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 31

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND HUMANITARIAN SERVICE OF
2 REVEREND CARL EDWARD THOMAS, PASTOR OF NEW COVENANT MISSIONARY
3 BAPTIST CHURCH IN CLARKSDALE, MISSISSIPPI.

4 WHEREAS, Reverend Carl Edward Thomas, long-time Minister,
5 Pastor and Confidant of the New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church
6 of Clarksdale, Mississippi, departed this earthly life and was
7 promoted to glory on Tuesday, February 28, 2006, as a legacy of
8 love and community service came to an end; and

9 WHEREAS, Carl Edward Thomas was born on January 2, 1956, in
10 Jackson, Mississippi, to Mrs. Mary E. Thomas and the late Reverend
11 S.V. Thomas. He was the ninth of fourteen children; and

12 WHEREAS, during his childhood, he completed his elementary
13 and secondary education in the Jackson Public School System. A
14 graduate of Murrah High School, Reverend Thomas earned a
15 Bachelor's Degree in Psychology in 1978 from Tougaloo College,
16 Tougaloo, Mississippi. In May 1982, he received his Masters of
17 Divinity Degree from Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson,
18 Mississippi; and

19 WHEREAS, he confessed Christ as his personal Savior at an
20 early age under the leadership of Reverend Oten McQuarter. He
21 accepted his calling at his parent's home in his prayer closet at
22 the age of 16. He committed to the teachings of the church and
23 never wavered from the high calling. This was followed by his
24 call as Pastor in 1974 at the New Hope Grove Baptist Church in
25 Ridgeland, Mississippi. Former pastorates include: the Mount
26 Pilgrim Baptist Church in Camden, Mississippi, and the Chapel Hill
27 Missionary Baptist Church in Clarksdale, Mississippi. His

28 ministry included a twenty-one-year span as Minister, Pastor, and
29 Confidant of the New Covenant M.B. Church of Clarksdale,
30 Mississippi, where he led his congregation into a new \$1.7 Million
31 worship center on October 24, 2004; and

32 WHEREAS, his affiliations and community service included:
33 Moderator of the Coahoma County Baptist District Association;
34 Member of the Clarksdale Ministerial Association; Member of the
35 Coalition for Children and Public Education Committee; Congress of
36 Christian Education for the General Missionary Baptist State
37 Convention of Mississippi, Inc.; Member of the Board of Directors
38 for the National Baptist Congress of Christian Education;
39 President of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary; Member of the
40 NAACP; Board of Trustees of the Northwest Regional Medical Center;
41 Board of Directors of the Clarksdale/Coahoma Chamber of Commerce;
42 Immediate past President of the Mississippi Baptist Congress of
43 Christian Education; Headmaster of the Covenant House Christian
44 Day Care Center; Former Executive Secretary of the General
45 Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi, Inc.; Former
46 Staff Chaplin for the Mississippi Department of Corrections at
47 Parchman, Mississippi; and

48 WHEREAS, in 1985, Reverend Carl Thomas and a group of
49 believers in Christ felt the need to find a new place to worship.
50 It is obvious that the group of believers were of the Baptist
51 faith because they named the church the New Covenant Missionary
52 Baptist Church. The first organizational meeting was held on
53 April 2, 1985, and included 87 charter members. It was by faith
54 that on Sunday, September 22, 1985, the first worship service was
55 held. Reverend and Mrs. James Williams joined the fellowship as
56 the first new members. Auxiliaries were soon organized, and the
57 church undertook projects. New Covenant Missionary Baptist Church
58 has truly come this far by faith. On February 26, 2006, Pastor
59 Thomas preached his final sermon entitled "*What is Preaching?*"
60 based on 1 Thessalonians 2:1-6; and

61 WHEREAS, while at Tougaloo College, he met and married a
62 loving, gentle woman, Geneva Randle of Baltimore, Maryland. They
63 were joined in holy matrimony on September 19, 1976. The Lord
64 blessed their union with two sons and one daughter. Those left to
65 celebrate his life and treasured memories are an adoring and
66 devoted wife, Geneva R. Thomas; two sons: Carl Marcque (Renita)
67 Thomas, Clarksdale, Mississippi, and Rev. Edward Shermaine
68 (Keisha) Thomas, Batesville, Mississippi; one daughter: Lydia
69 Ruth Thomas, Clarksdale, Mississippi; ten sisters; three brothers;
70 three brother-in-laws; four grandchildren; three adopted sons; two
71 godchildren; a host of nieces, nephews and other relatives;
72 friends and his beloved New Covenant Church family; and

73 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of this
74 spiritual and community leader, whose encouragement and direction
75 will be missed:

76 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
77 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend the life and humanitarian
78 service of Reverend Carl Edward Thomas, Pastor of New Covenant
79 Missionary Baptist Church in Clarksdale, Mississippi, and express
80 to his surviving family the sympathy of the Senate on his passing.

81 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
82 Reverend Thomas' surviving family and be made available to the
83 Capitol Press Corps.