

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Simmons

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 33

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE HUMANITARIAN
2 CONTRIBUTIONS OF MRS. EMMA LEE WILLIAMS HORHN ON THE OCCASION OF
3 HER 103RD BIRTHDAY.

4 WHEREAS, Mrs. Emma Lee Williams Horhn was born in Holmes
5 County, Mississippi, on March 12, 1903, to the late George
6 Williams and Josephine Wade Williams; and

7 WHEREAS, at the time of her birth, America was still in the
8 horse-and-buggy days; trains were the fastest means of
9 transportation; the telegraph was the quickest means of
10 communication; radio and television did not exist; World Wars I &
11 II and the Cold War were unimagined; atomic power was nonexistent;
12 polio was the most devastating disease in America; electricity and
13 indoor plumbing were luxuries; separate-but-equal was the law of
14 the land; and travel to outer space was unheard of, except in
15 science fiction novels; and

16 WHEREAS, she was the youngest of nine children, seven girls
17 and two boys, all of whom have preceded her in death; and

18 WHEREAS, she and her siblings often walked five miles one way
19 to attend Richland Elementary School to be taught reading and
20 math, and she later finished grammar school at Union School in
21 rural Holmes County; and

22 WHEREAS, while Miz Emma Lee's (as she is often called)
23 recollections of early life included much hardship and despair,
24 she does remember the pride and love bestowed on all the Williams
25 children by their parents. Like most African-Americans of that
26 time in the Deep South, the Williams family eked out a meager
27 living as sharecroppers. She recalls her father, George,

28 explaining that he was 16 years old when slavery in America ended.
29 Her mother told of her father, Simon Wade, who served as a Private
30 in the Union Army in North Carolina during the Civil War; and

31 WHEREAS, Emma married Tommie Horhn in Pickens, Mississippi,
32 in 1922 and began a family. In addition to tending a family
33 garden and raising livestock, the young family also began to
34 sharecrop. Tommie worked frequently as a logger and horse
35 wrangler, where he showed great skill. He and three of his
36 brothers, Walter, James and Cary, entertained friends and
37 neighbors throughout the countryside with minstrel shows,
38 consisting of story-telling, comedy sketches, and song and dance
39 routines. Many also sought out Tommie for his knowledge of
40 medicinal herbs; and

41 WHEREAS, Tommie and Emma's union produced 10 children, six
42 boys and four girls: Fannie, Johnnie Will, Catherine, Tommie,
43 Jr., Archie, Charlie, Curt, Louise, Julius and Sarah, who were
44 well-known throughout the community; and

45 WHEREAS, although Miz Emma Lee's husband and five of her
46 children have preceded her in death and she has endured a lifetime
47 of hard work, pain and sacrifice, her spirit of hopefulness and
48 closeness to God have never wavered. Upon moving to Jackson,
49 Mississippi, in the late 1950s, she joined New Strangers' Home
50 Missionary Baptist Church in Midtown and has been an active member
51 for nearly a half century, including serving as a Mother of the
52 Church; and

53 WHEREAS, like her skill in nurturing ornamental flowers, for
54 which she has had a lifelong passion, Miz Emma Lee is also
55 well-known for her skill in nurturing people. She has been an
56 inspiration to her family, church and community for her longevity,
57 wisdom, patience and love of God. Today, she still lives
58 independently in her home, and delights in receiving visits and
59 calls from her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren,
60 great-great-grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends:

61 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
62 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby recognize and commend the
63 humanitarian contributions of Mrs. Emma Lee Williams Horhn on the
64 occasion of her 103rd birthday and for her longevity, wisdom,
65 patience, and service to God and community, and extend to her the
66 best wishes of the Senate.

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
68 Miz Emma Lee and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.