

By: Representatives Mayo, Espy

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 87

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF WILLIAM H.
2 "BILLY" FRAZER AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND
3 FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, William H. "Billy" Frazer, born on September 26,
5 1915, passed away on Saturday, March 17, 2007, to enter into
6 eternal rest with his heavenly father causing great sorrow and
7 loss to his family and friends; and

8 WHEREAS, Mr. Frazer led a life that earned him the respect of
9 an editorial appearing in the *Clarksdale Press Register* describing
10 him as "a giant among men and will be sorely missed by all"; and

11 WHEREAS, one of his last goals in his long and glorious life
12 was to outlive his loving wife, Kathryn Lea (Katie), who preceded
13 him in death by just 25 days, in order to take care of her until
14 her final day and to prepare her permanent resting place; and

15 WHEREAS, his daughter, Kathie Frazer Gieselmann of Memphis
16 said of him, "Dad was the epitome of a southern gentleman. He has
17 been the most incredible father and leader in this family and he
18 was a man of the highest integrity. I just feel so blessed to
19 have had an incredible role model in my life and my children's
20 lives. I'm just so grateful."; and

21 WHEREAS, "Billy," as he was known to his friends, graduated
22 from Clarksdale High School and later the Louisiana State
23 University School of Banking, where he was president of the Class
24 of 1954; and

25 WHEREAS, he started his banking career in 1936 for Coahoma
26 County Bank and Trust as a clerk, teller, bookkeeper and served as
27 a corporate board member of Sunburst Banking System, culminating

28 in 44 years of service at the time of his retirement in 1980 as
29 president; and

30 WHEREAS, Mr. Frazer endured the depths of the Great
31 Depression, World War II, Korea and the onset of the Vietnam War,
32 serving Clarksdale and other Coahoma County residents, was a past
33 president of the Clarksdale-Coahoma County Chamber of Commerce,
34 past vice chairman and director of the Clarksdale-Coahoma County
35 Industrial Foundation, past president of the Clarksdale Rotary
36 Club, was awarded the Paul Harris Fellow from Rotary International
37 and was a past director and treasurer of Delta Council; and

38 WHEREAS, Mr. Frazer served as a gunnery instructor during
39 World War II, served many years as a director and volunteer with
40 Boy Scouts and was awarded the Silver Beaver, the organization's
41 highest honor for a volunteer, served over 15 years as trustee on
42 the Clarksdale Public School Board, was a past president and
43 director of the Coahoma Literacy Council, was active with the
44 American Red Cross, Cancer Drive, United Fund, Heart Fund, and
45 March of Dimes and served meals to the needy with the Care Station
46 in Clarksdale; and,

47 WHEREAS, he was a devoted member of St. George's Episcopal
48 Church, where he served as past Sr. and Jr. Warden and vestry
49 member and was a licensed lay reader and head of numerous
50 stewardship drives; and,

51 WHEREAS, the Frazers had nine grandchildren and 11
52 great-grandchildren and his life is best described by his son
53 Willis with these words: "Dad has been a strong supporter of St.
54 George's Episcopal Church. One of my father's greatest character
55 traits has always been his unwavering optimism. When my father
56 began losing his eyesight in the early 1980s, he never let it stop
57 him. It was his nature to always see a cup as half full; not half
58 empty. That kind of strong will has probably kept him living on
59 the last 15-20 years. If only I had had a small portion of his

60 optimism, I would have been a better son. I told him that many
61 times."; and,

62 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
63 recognize and commend the life of such remarkable individuals as
64 Mr. Frazer, whose life inspired and encouraged many as a beacon of
65 hope:

66 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
67 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
68 commend the life and legacy of William H. "Billy" Frazer and
69 express deepest sympathy to his family and friends upon his
70 passing.

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
72 furnished to the family members of Mr. Frazer and to the members
73 of the Capitol Press Corps.