

By: Representative Bailey

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 129

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE REVEREND
2 THEODORE ROSEVELT FORD AND CONGRATULATING HIM ON THE OCCASION OF
3 HIS 85TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION.

4 WHEREAS, Theodore Rosevelt Ford, born April 15, 1922, on a
5 plantation in Holly Knowe, Mississippi, and on his birthday, he
6 will celebrate 85 years on this great earth; and

7 WHEREAS, on Monday, August 7, 1939, at the age of 17, he
8 accepted Christ as his personal Savior at New Zion Missionary
9 Baptist Church in Leland, Mississippi; and

10 WHEREAS, two months following his profession of faith,
11 Reverend Ford married Essie Mae Lewis on October 9, 1939, a
12 marital union overflowing with an abundance of love which was
13 blessed with the birth of 14 children, nine girls and five boys;
14 and expanded in the fostering of 11 additional children, two of
15 whom the Fords adopted; and

16 WHEREAS, having grown up on a farm picking cotton from sun up
17 to sun down and paid only pennies, Reverend Ford's enduring faith
18 and persevering determination enabled him to purchase his own land
19 to farm; and

20 WHEREAS, even on a meager income, Theodore and Essie remained
21 dedicated to changing the lives of children all over the world
22 through the "Feed the Children" and "World Vision" organizations
23 by sending in monthly pledges for years, taking pride in the
24 pictures they received in the mail of the children they were
25 helping to feed and clothe as members of their international
26 extended family; and

27 WHEREAS, Reverend Ford continues to be a shining example of
28 Christian courtesy, charity, committed service to the less
29 fortunate and family devotion for his 14 children, two adopted
30 children, 61 grandchildren, 98 great-grandchildren and
31 great-great-grandchildren; and

32 WHEREAS, one of his greatest joys came on October 28, 1993,
33 the last Thursday in the month, when God called Theodore to the
34 ministry at the age of 71; and

35 WHEREAS, with unfailing endurance and strength as the
36 Associate Pastor of Holly Grove Missionary Baptist Church in
37 Dunleith, Mississippi, just a few miles from the plantation where
38 he once lived and worked, Reverend Ford continues the ministry of
39 winning souls to Christ and inspiring all people to put God first
40 in their lives; and

41 WHEREAS, a devoted husband during the years of his wife's
42 illness and being a prime example to the committal vow of "until
43 death do us part," Reverend Ford's lifelong love, Essie, was
44 called to her eternal home on Saturday, October 2, 2004, just
45 seven days before their 65th year wedding anniversary; and

46 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
47 commend the life of such a noble and giving individual as Reverend
48 Ford, who is truly one of his community's unsung heroes and an
49 ambassador for Christ:

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
51 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
52 commend and congratulate the Reverend Theodore Roosevelt Ford on
53 the occasion of his 85th birthday celebration and extend warmest
54 wishes for continued health, love, Christian fellowship and
55 devotion for many more years to come.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
57 furnished to Reverend Ford and to the members of the Capitol Press
58 Corps.