

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.