

By: Representatives Clarke, Wooten, Banks,
Bell (65th), Calhoun, Campbell, Denny,
Denton, Dixon, Dortch, Gibbs, Gunn, Karriem,
Sykes

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE, CONTRIBUTIONS
2 AND LEGACY OF MRS. ALTON KENNY SMITH AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST
3 SYMPATHY UPON HER PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, Mrs. Alton Kenny Smith, who was a giving Christian
5 community leader, departed this earthly life on December 5, 2015,
6 at the blessed age of 87, causing great sorrow and loss to her
7 family and many friends; and

8 WHEREAS, a native of Bogalusa, Louisiana, who was born on
9 November 17, 1928, Mrs. Smith was reared in love, along with her
10 younger sister, by her parents, the late Alfred and Burnette K.
11 Butler; and

12 WHEREAS, knowing the importance of receiving an education,
13 Mrs. Smith was educated in the Bogalusa Public School System and
14 graduated from high school in 1950, and in 1953 she graduated from
15 the Mississippi Baptist School of Nursing and served as a
16 registered nurse at Baptist Hospital where she used her God-given
17 helpful nature to help those in need; and



18 WHEREAS, notably, Mrs. Smith met her future husband, Robert
19 L.T. Smith, Jr., at Baptist Hospital in the colored ward of the
20 hospital while caring for Robert L.T. Smith, Sr., who would become
21 her future father-in-law; and

22 WHEREAS, after a blissful courtship, Mrs. Smith united in
23 holy matrimony to Robert L.T. Smith, Jr., on December 30, 1956,
24 and to this blessed union, which would flourish for nearly 59
25 years, a daughter, Shelia Lenora, and a son, Robert "Buddy" were
26 born; and

27 WHEREAS, Mrs. Smith, a Christian, was an active member of
28 Farish Street Baptist Church, in Jackson, Mississippi, for over 60
29 years, and she served in various positions such as an usher,
30 member of the Royal Circle, Sunday School teacher, trustee,
31 deaconess, as well as various church committees and due to her
32 faithful support of the church, she was named the 1996 Woman of
33 the Year by the Missionary Society; and

34 WHEREAS, Mrs. Smith also gave her time and brilliant talents
35 to Farish Street Baptist Church by serving as a pivotal part of
36 the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of America, and as a
37 result, she received the Elders-Dickens Award due to her
38 unwavering support of Boy Scouts Troop #55; and

39 WHEREAS, not only was Mrs. Smith given well-deserved honor by
40 Troop #55, she was also honored by Girl Scout Troops #5093 and
41 #5425 and received the prestigious Green Angel Award due to her



42 untiring support of Girl Scouts as an active adult leader who
43 encouraged others in the scouting process; and

44 WHEREAS, in addition to helping the youth through their
45 scouting endeavors, Mrs. Smith was a prestigious E.B. Topp Golden
46 Rose and a charter member of Shelia's Guardian Angels, which is
47 currently known as Shelia and Robert's Guardian Angels; and

48 WHEREAS, Mrs. Smith, who was a multi-talented woman, served
49 on several boards such as State Mutual Federal Savings & Loan Bank
50 and Central Mississippi Health Services, Inc., in which she
51 selflessly rendered her expertise and knowledge; and

52 WHEREAS, due to always wanting to better her community, Mrs.
53 Smith had several other achievements such as being a life member
54 of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,
55 and she was a recipient of the following: the Central Mississippi
56 Health Services Lifetime Achievement Award (2004), the Metro
57 Jackson Area of the National Council of Negro Women's Jessie B.
58 Mosley Award and the 2008 Dr. Aaron Shirley Distinguished Indigent
59 Care Award - all achievements which spoke to her determined
60 commitment to making life better for others; and

61 WHEREAS, Mrs. Smith also received the Girl Scouts' Thanks
62 Badge, which is the highest adult award that can be earned, and it
63 was bestowed upon her due to her ongoing commitment, leadership
64 and service to the Girl Scouts and due to the exceptional impact
65 her service had on the organization, and she was also a pioneer in



66 the organization as she was the first African American to serve as
67 board president of the Middle Mississippi Girl Scout Council; and

68 WHEREAS, as a pioneer in the Civil Rights Movement in the
69 late 50's and 60's, Mrs. Smith marched and boycotted for the many
70 rights that are enjoyed by all today, regardless of race, and
71 notably, her last civic duty was her casting a ballot on Tuesday,
72 November 3, after which she fell ill while leaving her voting
73 precinct - an act which spoke to her passion of making things
74 better by remaining involved and active; and

75 WHEREAS, the memory of Mrs. Smith will continue to flourish
76 in the hearts of her survivors, some of which include, her loving
77 husband of nearly 59 years, Robert Jr.; their two children, Shelia
78 and Robert, as well as a host of other family and friends who will
79 always treasure her giving special names of endearment and for her
80 words of wisdom, which were affectionately referred to as
81 "Kennyisms"; and

82 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to pay tribute
83 to an inspirational and caring individual such as Mrs. Kenny Smith
84 whose dedication to her family, church and community will be
85 treasured for generations to come:

86 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
87 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
88 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the life, legacy and
89 contributions of Mrs. Alton Kenny Smith and express deepest
90 sympathy to her family and many friends upon her passing.



91 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
92 furnished to the family of Mrs. Smith and to the members of the
93 Capitol Press Corps.

