

By: Representative Pigott

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 68

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING
2 THE LIFE, LEGACY AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF SHERIFF DUANE DILLON, AND
3 EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS
4 PASSING.

5 WHEREAS, "To everything there is a season, and time to every
6 purpose under the Heaven," and as such, the grand architect of the
7 universe summoned the mortal presence of dearly beloved, Walthall
8 County Sheriff Duane Dillon, to eternal rest on November 30, 2015,
9 at the age of 67, rendering great sorrow and loss to his family
10 and friends; and

11 WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi and the City of Tylertown,
12 Mississippi, lost a wonderful friend and community leader with the
13 passing of Sheriff Dillon, who was born to the late A.C. and
14 Eunice Graves Dillon on December 20, 1947, in Tylertown,
15 Mississippi; and

16 WHEREAS, Sheriff Dillon was initially appointed to the
17 sheriff's position in 1997 to fill the vacated seat until a
18 special election could be held, but by the time the special
19 election rolled around, the community had grown accustomed to the



20 excellent protection, attentive diligence and hard work that
21 Sheriff Dillon provided so they elected him to serve for four full
22 terms; and

23 WHEREAS, before he began his tenure as Walthall County
24 Sheriff, Sheriff Dillon gained invaluable experience in providing
25 safety and security to a community during his service as Pike
26 County Sheriff from 1984 until 1987, so when he was appointed
27 sheriff in Walthall County, he became the only person in
28 Mississippi to win the general election for sheriff in two
29 counties; and

30 WHEREAS, Sheriff Dillon also benefitted Pike County as a
31 constable and justice court judge, and before he made the decision
32 to enter into the world of politics and make the state a better
33 place to live, he had encouraged and inspired the youth of his
34 community, as a teacher and coach, to strive for greatness; and

35 WHEREAS, remembered as a tall man with a dry sense of humor
36 who could laugh, joke and have fun regardless of his
37 circumstances, Sheriff Dillon was in his 19th year as county
38 sheriff at the time of his death, and many believe he would have
39 been elected to serve another four years or more if not for his
40 deteriorating health, which delivered a devastating blow to the
41 entire Walthall County community; and

42 WHEREAS, the former high school and college basketball player
43 has been described by some as "the perfect mix of Andy Taylor and
44 the Marlboro man," and in addition to his role as county sheriff,



45 he was a member and past-president of the Mississippi Sheriffs'
46 Association, a member of Lexie Baptist Church, a Mason, a Shriner
47 and the co-owner and operator of Dillons' Seafood, a family
48 business; and

49 WHEREAS, when he was not protecting and serving the citizens
50 of Walthall County as sheriff, he enjoyed getting lost in a good
51 book, the tranquility of an early morning bird hunt, dropping a
52 line on a lazy summer afternoon and socializing and enjoying the
53 company of his many friends and family members; and

54 WHEREAS, Sheriff Dillon's legacy of honesty, compassion and
55 hard work lives on today in the hearts and memories of those who
56 knew and loved him best as well as the countless lives he
57 unknowingly impacted with his friendly demeanor, infectious
58 laughter and dry, hilarious sense of humor; and

59 WHEREAS, though he has traversed the river of life to reunite
60 with those who answered God's summons to life eternal and now
61 beckon his arrival to the celestial shores of Heaven's grandeur,
62 Sheriff Dillon's memory will continue to refresh the hearts and
63 fond memories of his beloved survivors: his wife of 25 years,
64 Keely Fortinberry Dillon; children, Jason Duane Dillon and Jennah
65 Kaice Dillon; brother-in-law, Jim Seman; sisters-in-law, Dot
66 Dillon and Delores Dillon; special friend, Tony Ard; and a host of
67 other relatives and friends; and

68 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to mourn the
69 loss and commemorate the life and legacy of such a selfless



70 individual as Sheriff Duane Dillon, whose commitment to serving
71 and protecting the citizens of Walthall County which was a
72 hallmark contribution that spoke to his stupendous character:

73 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
74 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
75 THEREIN, That we do hereby mourn the loss and commemorate the
76 life, legacy and contributions of Sheriff Duane Dillon and extend
77 sincere and deepest sympathy to his family and many friends upon
78 his passing.

79 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
80 furnished to the family of Sheriff Duane Dillon and to the members
81 of the Capitol Press Corps.

