

By: Representatives Snowden, Young, Brown,
Gunn, Shirley

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 76

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING
2 THE LIFE OF MR. GILBERT ELLZEY "GIL" CARMICHAEL, AND EXTENDING
3 DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi lost a wonderful friend, a
5 community leader and a supreme statesman, January 31, 2016, Mr.
6 Gilbert Ellzey "Gil" Carmichael returned home to find eternal
7 peace in the Lord; and

8 WHEREAS, though this corporeal life must inevitably draw to
9 its conclusion and therein words often fail to define the sorrow
10 and sadness of survivors, the indelible legacy of Mr. Gilbert
11 Ellezy Carmichael shines bright, for those who knew him, the
12 shining light of a husband, a father, a grandfather and friend
13 rebuffs the darkness of anguish and heartache, even in this
14 darkest hour, the light of love shines unremitting; and

15 WHEREAS, born June 27, 1927, Mr. Carmichael inherited the
16 light of love from parents Calvin Ellzey Carmichael and Clyde
17 Myrna Smith Carmichael, born and raised in Columbia, Mississippi,
18 he developed an insatiable passion for the State of Mississippi



19 that endured even when life steered him elsewhere at times,
20 Mississippi was home; and

21 WHEREAS, a 1944 graduate of Columbia High School, Mr.
22 Carmichael answered his country's call to serve for the first time
23 in 1945, after concluding his initial year of service he returned
24 home and pursued an education at Texas A&M, where he earned a
25 degree majoring in business and a minor in petroleum engineering;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, at the onset of the Korean Conflict, Mr. Carmichael
28 again answered his country's call to serve and was commissioned as
29 an officer of the United States Coast Guard, where he served with
30 honor and distinction, earning the Silver Life Saving Medal,
31 awarded to him by the Secretary of the Treasury after he assisted
32 in saving the lives of 70 men who were at the merciless peril of a
33 storm off the coast of Cape Cod, Massachusetts; and

34 WHEREAS, in 1961 he moved to Meridian, Mississippi, where he
35 began his own company, including two car dealerships and a real
36 estate development company, through years of hard work,
37 dedication, and persistence he served the community of Meridian
38 and the State of Mississippi with honor and distinction; and

39 WHEREAS, in 1973 Mr. Carmichael reaffirmed his commitment to
40 serving his country, through a Presidential appointment, where he
41 served for three years as chairman of the National Highway Safety
42 Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Transportation; and



43 WHEREAS, in 1976 President Ford appointed him to the National
44 Transportation Policy Study Commission, where he served until
45 1979, later he was appointed to the Amtrak Reform Council by
46 Majority Leader, Senator Trent Lott, and later served as chairman
47 of that committee; and

48 WHEREAS, from 1989 to 1993, Mr. Carmichael served as head of
49 the Federal Railroad Administration for President Bush's
50 administration, he also founded the Intermodal Transportation
51 Institute at the University of Denver; and

52 WHEREAS, at home in Mississippi, Mr. Carmichael was a pioneer
53 in transportation, he helped originate, author and pass a
54 1,077-mile statewide four-lane highway construction program and
55 was instrumental in the creation of a 700-mile regional railroad
56 in East Mississippi and West Alabama; and

57 WHEREAS, at the State Capitol in Jackson, Mississippi, there
58 were few who could rival the influence of Mr. Carmichael, he
59 mentored many of the minds that served the State's highest offices
60 and achieved incalculable successes for the State, he proved
61 unwavering dedication to the State of Mississippi, running for the
62 United States Senate in 1972, for Governor in 1975 and 1979 as
63 well as running for Lieutenant Governor in 1983; and

64 WHEREAS, though Mr. Carmichael has commenced upon the
65 transformative journey, from mortality to the immeasurable glory
66 of salvation in the Lord, his service and contribution to the
67 world will long endure and memories of many wonderful and happy



68 times now bring the light of joy to the hearts of his loving
69 survivors: Mrs. Carolyn Dean White Carmichael, his loving wife of
70 63 years; Gilbert Scott Carmichael, his son; sisters, Sue Horton
71 and Myrna Horton; along with a host of grandchildren and loving
72 friends; and

73 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
74 pay tribute and commend the life of such a selfless, caring and
75 inspiring Mississippian as Mr. Gilbert Ellzey "Gil" Carmichael
76 whose light of love shines bright, casting away the darkness of
77 pain and loss:

78 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
79 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
80 THEREIN, That we do hereby mourn the loss and commemorate the life
81 and legacy of an incomparable servant to the United States of
82 America, and the State of Mississippi, and extend deepest sympathy
83 upon his passing and convey grateful appreciation for his many
84 gifts, which he selflessly shared with his beloved country and
85 state.

86 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this concurrent
87 resolution be furnished to the family of Mr. Gilbert Ellzey "Gil"
88 Carmichael and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

