

By: Representatives Gibbs (72nd), Williams-  
Barnes

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 103

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE MERITORIOUS AND  
2 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF SERGEANT TAYLOR HOWARD TO HIS COUNTRY  
3 DURING WORLD WAR II AND HIS CONTINUAL SELFLESS SERVICE TO HIS  
4 COMMUNITY AND HIS STATE.

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Taylor Howard, a World War II veteran, a  
6 community/civic activist, entrepreneur, family man and servant of  
7 God, never viewed life as a sea of closed doors, but rather as an  
8 opportunity to never quit, to never give up, to never think lesser  
9 of himself, to always have a dream, and to make those dreams come  
10 true, and at the age of 98, he still seeks to unite and improve  
11 his community; and

12 WHEREAS, born on October 13, 1918, Mr. Howard has resided in  
13 Gulfport, Mississippi, since childhood, and after attending  
14 Thirty-Third Avenue High School and wanting to better himself and  
15 his family, he enrolled in the Civilian Conservation Corps in  
16 1937, "CC Camp" as it was often referred; and

17 WHEREAS, while attending CC Camp, Mr. Howard was determined  
18 to learn all he could to expand his knowledge that would prepare



19 him for his life ahead, so as a young man, he committed himself to  
20 making life better not just for himself, but for others; and

21 WHEREAS, after returning from CC Camp, he was drafted into  
22 the United States Army and served with the 92nd Infantry Division,  
23 and he served in combat in the European Theater from 1942 until  
24 World War II ended in 1945, training in Fort Breckenridge,  
25 Kentucky, and Fort Huachuca, Arizona, before being deployed to  
26 Northern Africa and Italy; and

27 WHEREAS, while in the service, Mr. Howard was promoted to the  
28 rank of Sergeant, and while in the War Zone in the Mountains of  
29 Italy, the barrage of hostile enemy fire they faced was extensive,  
30 but the 92nd Infantry Division, along with a light tank company,  
31 were able to silence the big guns of the Germans in that part of  
32 Italy, and in November of 2013, he had the privilege of taking the  
33 Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. with other World War II veterans,  
34 as he continues to live his life as an active and proud World War  
35 II veteran; and

36 WHEREAS, after serving in World War II, Sergeant Howard  
37 returned to Gulfport, ever mindful of the things he had learned  
38 along the way and continually holding on to his dream of freedom  
39 and equality, but he knew that the only way to make a difference  
40 was to become involved, so over the years, he served in numerous  
41 civil rights and community roles, attending political rallies and  
42 caucuses, always seeking to ensure that the voice of the community  
43 was heard; and



44 WHEREAS, in 1966, as president of the Harrison County  
45 Taxpayers Civic and Voters League, Mr. Howard was instrumental in  
46 securing federal funding through the Office of Economic  
47 Development (OEO) for the establishment of a Community Action  
48 Program (CAP) for Harrison County, which still exists today as the  
49 Harrison County Community Action Agency; and

50 WHEREAS, Mr. Howard was also very passionate about the right  
51 for a child to receive a quality education at all levels, so while  
52 serving as a board member of the Community Action Program (CAP  
53 Board), he had the opportunity to meet with lawmakers in  
54 Washington, D.C., and became one of the community leaders  
55 responsible for bringing the Head Start Program to Gulfport and  
56 the Mississippi Gulf Coast; and

57 WHEREAS, additionally, he met with many parents concerned  
58 about the integration of schools and other educational matters,  
59 and while his children were in school, he was active in PTA and  
60 numerous advisory boards for Gulfport City Schools; and

61 WHEREAS, Mr. Howard joined the order of Masons in 1946, where  
62 he has served in numerous positions including Worshipful Master  
63 and as Potentate in the Shriners after being elevated to 33rd  
64 degree in 1985; and

65 WHEREAS, as a community activist, Mr. Howard has also served  
66 in various capacities on community advisory boards for the City of  
67 Gulfport, including the board for development at Jones Park, he  
68 was instrumental in working with the Gulfport Police Department



69 Community Relations Division to start the "Neighborhood Watch" for  
70 the citizens of the Soria City community, and for many years, he  
71 served on the Board of Directors for the Gulf Coast Chapter of the  
72 American Red Cross; and

73 WHEREAS, in addition to his dreams as a community activist,  
74 Mr. Howard always wanted to own his own construction business one  
75 day, so he attended trade school to learn all he could about  
76 building and construction, never underestimating the importance of  
77 math and solving equations, which tremendously aided him as a  
78 young apprentice in his brother's construction business; and

79 WHEREAS, with much hard work and effort, Mr. Howard  
80 eventually formed his own building contracting business, Howard's  
81 Building Services, Incorporated, and he and his brother built  
82 churches and homes throughout the Gulf Coast and South  
83 Mississippi; and

84 WHEREAS, Mr. Howard opened two movie theaters, "picture  
85 shows" as they were called then, one in the Soria City community  
86 and one in the North Gulfport community, to give the community  
87 children somewhere to hang with their friends and enjoy cinematic  
88 masterpieces, and both movie theaters were named "Embassy Theater"  
89 and operated until the late 1960s; and

90 WHEREAS, above all else, the role of a family man has always  
91 held an important meaning for Mr. Howard -- provider, nurturer,  
92 teacher, leader and protector -- a lesson he learned at an early  
93 age, especially the importance of love and togetherness, and his



94 role as a father has not only been displayed with his children but  
95 also to his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews,  
96 other relatives and neighborhood children as he continually tells  
97 his grandchildren to "keep on pushing and they'll make it to the  
98 top"; and

99 WHEREAS, being raised in a spiritual family, choosing to  
100 serve on God's program came natural for Mr. Howard, who has been  
101 an active member of Morning Star Baptist Church for more than 85  
102 years, and as a church advisor, he has worked on a number of  
103 committees and auxiliaries including serving as a Trustee, and as  
104 a Sunday School teacher, he touched the lives and mentored many  
105 young men who are now leaders in the church and the community; and

106 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
107 recognize and honor the lives of fine Mississippians, especially  
108 those such as Sergeant Taylor Howard, a gracious man who  
109 heroically served his country during World War II and continues to  
110 selflessly serve his community, his family and his church,  
111 striving daily for the betterment of all those around him,  
112 bringing glory and honor to the State of Mississippi:

113 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
114 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
115 recognize and honor the meritorious and distinguished service of  
116 Sergeant Taylor Howard to his country during World War II and his  
117 continual selfless service to his community and his state and



118 extend most sincere wishes for continued blessings in all of his  
119 future endeavors.

120 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
121 furnished to Sergeant Taylor Howard and to the members of the  
122 Capitol Press Corps.

