

By: Representative Weathersby

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 44

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND REMEMBERING
2 THE DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE OF FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE AND
3 FORMER STATE SENATOR, ROBERT H. "ROB" SMITH AND EXTENDING
4 CONDOLENCES TO HIS BEREAVED FAMILY UPON HIS PASSING.

5 WHEREAS, it is written in Ecclesiastes 3:1 that "To
6 everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under
7 the Heaven," and as such, on December 16, 2017, the immaculate
8 author and finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal
9 presence of dearly beloved, former State Representative and former
10 State Senator, Robert H. "Rob" Smith, to eternal rest, rendering
11 great sorrow and loss to his family and friends; and

12 WHEREAS, born November 3, 1951, to C.E. and Jewel Smith of
13 Richland, Mississippi, Senator Smith graduated from Florence High
14 School, earned his bachelor's degree from Mississippi State
15 University and further earned his master's degree in business
16 administration from Mississippi College; and

17 WHEREAS, Senator Smith, being both a realtor and an
18 accountant, owned a real estate business in Richland for 42 years



19 and was also a faithful member of First Baptist Church in
20 Richland; and

21 WHEREAS, being dedicated to his community, Senator Smith
22 served as a member of many organizations, including the Eastern
23 Star, the Jaycees, the Exchange Club, the Masons and the South
24 Rankin Rotary Club of Jackson, where he served as founding member,
25 President, and as the 6820 District Governor; moreover, Senator
26 Smith was a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, and was recently honored
27 at the Rotary Club of Jackson as a Major Donor; and

28 WHEREAS, Senator Smith, having a love for music beginning at
29 a young age, was led to form a band in high school called the
30 Rebel Rousers, in which he was a singer, songwriter and drummer;
31 and later on he wrote music for MBI and had many of his songs
32 recorded, and he had the outstanding opportunity to be featured at
33 the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee; and later, while in
34 Natchez, Mississippi, he helped form Natchez Record and Recording,
35 Inc., but his passion for music was surpassed only by his passion
36 for helping others; and

37 WHEREAS, dedicating his life to public service, Senator Smith
38 was elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives in 1979
39 and served for four years, and in 1983, he was elected to the
40 Mississippi Senate where he served District 35 for 20 years, and
41 during his 24 years in the Legislature, Senator Smith greatly
42 impacted both his community and the State of Mississippi with the
43 numerous pieces of legislation he authored; and



44 WHEREAS, Senator Smith was proud to author the bill that gave
45 Purple Heart recipients a free car tag, as his father proudly
46 served in World War II and was a Purple Heart recipient; and he
47 worked closely with former President Bill Clinton on impactful
48 agricultural initiatives; additionally, Senator Smith was a
49 tremendous advocate for veterans, firefighters and law enforcement
50 officers, and he fervently believed in the importance of education
51 and the promotion of the arts in the public school curriculum; and

52 WHEREAS, as a man of integrity, intellect and compassion,
53 Senator Smith received many awards from his legislative peers and
54 community throughout the years for his dedicated public service,
55 with his motto being "Lord, let me help someone today"; but
56 outside of his public service, Senator Smith's family was of the
57 utmost importance to him, and his devotion, love and support was
58 unwavering for his wife Pam, and two daughters, Tara and Karlie,
59 who he said were his greatest accomplishments; and

60 WHEREAS, the legacy of Senator Smith's memory will continue
61 to refresh the hearts and fond memories of his beloved survivors,
62 including his wife, Pam; his daughters, Tara (Trey) Clark and
63 Karlie Smith; his stepchildren, Robin (Nathan) Renick, Suzanne
64 (Lee) Walker, Karla (Joel) Sarmiento and Nate Anderson; his
65 sisters, Judy Pitts and Becky Smith; his aunts, Nell (Jerald)
66 Kennedy and Linda (Stan) Roberts; numerous grandchildren and many
67 other nieces, nephews and cousins whom he loved dearly; and



68 WHEREAS, Senator Smith leaves a lasting legacy not only in
69 his hometown, but throughout the State of Mississippi, as his
70 passion for helping build strong communities throughout his region
71 of the state was unlike any other; and

72 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to mourn the
73 loss and recognize the outstanding individual contributions of
74 fine Mississippians, especially those such as Senator Robert H.
75 "Rob" Smith, whose steadfast commitment to his family, his
76 community and his state has brought great honor to the State of
77 Mississippi:

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 many accomplishments of Senator Robert H. "Rob" Smith, and
82 express deepest sympathy to his family and friends upon his
83 passing.

84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
85 furnished to the family of Senator Robert H. "Rob" Smith, to the
86 South Rankin Rotary Club and to the members of the Capitol Press
87 Corps.

