

By: Representatives Holloway, Weathersby,
Currie

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 21

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMENDING THE CAREER OF
2 OLE MISS AND MISSISSIPPI SPORTS LEGEND LARRY GRANTHAM AND
3 EXTENDING CONDOLENCES TO HIS SURVIVING FAMILY.

4 WHEREAS, it is written in Ecclesiastes 3:1, "To everything
5 there is a season, and a time for every purpose under the Heaven,"
6 and as such, the immaculate author and finisher of our soul's
7 destiny summoned the mortal presence of dearly beloved, Mr. Larry
8 Grantham, to rest eternally, as he has made life's final
9 transition from earthly travailing to heavenly reward, rendering
10 great sorrow and loss to his family and friends; and

11 WHEREAS, born in the quiet town of Crystal Springs,
12 Mississippi, on September 16, 1938, Ole Miss and the State of
13 Mississippi lost a sports legend on June 17, 2017, with the
14 passing of football star Larry Grantham, 78, who was also a member
15 of the Super Bowl III Champion New York Jets, and there is now a
16 hush in our hearts as we come together to pay our respects to the
17 memory of one who has been called to join that innumerable
18 heavenly caravan as he enjoys the eternal peace described in Luke



19 2:29, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
20 according to your word"; and

21 WHEREAS, a member of the Ole Miss Athletic Hall of Fame,
22 Grantham played linebacker for legendary Ole Miss Coach John
23 Vaught from 1957 to 1959, earning three letters, and helped lead
24 the Rebels to a 28-4-1 record, including Sugar Bowl victories over
25 Texas and LSU, and a win over Florida in the Gator Bowl, as well
26 as making an impressive showing on the green diamond as a
27 letterman on Coach Tom Swayze's 1958 Ole Miss Baseball Team; and

28 WHEREAS, the 1959 Rebels' gridiron team, which finished 10-1
29 and earned a share of the national championship, is considered one
30 of the best in Ole Miss football history, where Grantham played a
31 key role as the 1959 Rebels' defense shut out eight opponents,
32 while allowing only two touchdowns all season and outscored its
33 opposition 329-21 that season, with the only other touchdown given
34 up being LSU great Billy Cannon's 89-yard punt return on Halloween
35 night in Baton Rouge that lifted the Tigers to a 7-3 win; and

36 WHEREAS, the Rebels' regular season loss to the Tigers would
37 be avenged two months later in a Sugar Bowl rematch as the Rebels
38 dominated LSU, 21-0, as Grantham, who also caught an 18-yard
39 touchdown pass from Bobby Franklin, limited the 1959 Heisman
40 Trophy winner Cannon to only eight yards; and

41 WHEREAS, a two-time All-Southeastern Conference selection and
42 chosen to play in the Hula Bowl All-Star Game, Grantham, a member
43 of the Ole Miss Team of the Century, was inducted into the



44 Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame in 1980 and the Ole Miss Sports
45 Hall of Fame in 1995; and

46 WHEREAS, following his Ole Miss career, Grantham was drafted
47 in 1960 by the New York Titans/Jets of the American Football
48 League and the Baltimore Colts of the National Football League,
49 choosing to sign with the Titans where he quickly established
50 himself as one of the key players of a Jets defense that made the
51 playoffs in 1968 and 1969, winning the AFL Championship in 1968
52 and then defeating the Baltimore Colts, 16-7, in Super Bowl III on
53 January 12, 1969, in which he is credited with three tackles and
54 two pass defenses in the win over the Colts, a game which Jets'
55 Quarterback Joe Namath had guaranteed a New York victory; and

56 WHEREAS, with Grantham as the starter, the New York AFL
57 franchise went from the worst team in an upstart league to World
58 Champions in nine years, and during his 13-year career, Grantham
59 standing at only 6'0" and weighing in at 193 pounds, a Davidesque
60 stature among a throng of Goliaths, was a five-time AFL All-Star
61 with the team, named to the American Football League All-Time
62 All-AFL Second Team and tapped as the 1971 Jets MVP, amazing feats
63 which insured his induction, as one of only 10 players, into the
64 New York Jets' Ring of Honor in 2011; and

65 WHEREAS, Grantham, who played one last season in 1974 for the
66 Florida Blazers in the World Football League after leaving the
67 Jets in 1972, maintains the Jets' franchise record of 175 AFL/NFL



68 career games played and his defensive totals included 43
69 individual takeaways; and

70 WHEREAS, following his professional career, Grantham spent
71 time broadcasting Jets games on the radio and was involved in
72 business and banking, while remaining close to the Ole Miss
73 family, serving as Sideline Reporter on the Ole Miss Radio
74 Football Network from 1980 to 1982; and

75 WHEREAS, we encourage the family to find solace from the
76 overwhelming sadness created by the earthly departure of their
77 beloved family member and be renewed in their faith that Mr.
78 Grantham fulfilled the purpose of his appointed time in adherence
79 to the commandment of II Timothy 4:7, by having "fought a good
80 fight, finishing his course and keeping the faith until the hour
81 of his departure was at hand"; and

82 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
83 commend the life of such a giant of an individual as Mr. Grantham,
84 whose name and immense athletic talent brought great recognition
85 to his family, community and the entire State of Mississippi:

86 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
87 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
88 mourn the loss and commend the career of Ole Miss and Mississippi
89 Sports Legend Larry Grantham, and extend sincere condolences to
90 his family and friends upon his passing.

91 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
92 presented to the surviving family of Larry Grantham, forwarded to



93 the Ole Miss Sports Hall of Fame and to the members of the Capitol
94 Press Corps.

