

By: Representatives Sykes, Calhoun

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 22

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE,
2 LEGACY AND SERVICE OF MR. PERCY ALEHMAN "SNAKEMAN" KING, AND
3 EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS
4 PASSING.

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

12 WHEREAS, the last child born to Reverend Leroy and Mrs.
13 Lucille King, on July 20, 1960, the City of Jackson and the State
14 of Mississippi, lost a wonderful friend and children's icon with
15 the passing of Mr. King, affectionately known throughout the
16 community as "Snakeman" on January 19, 2018, and there is now a
17 hush in our hearts as we come together to pay our respects to the
18 memory of one who has been called to join that innumerable
19 heavenly caravan as he enjoys the eternal peace described in Luke



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

22 WHEREAS, it has pleased Almighty God to take unto Himself,
23 our beloved Mr. King, too soon by our measure, but in the
24 providence of the all-knowing divine, which does not diminish the
25 profound benediction of a life lived in such a remarkably sincere
26 and obedient walk with God, nor the admiration and affection for
27 the example he established as a faithful and dependable servant;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, a 1978 graduate of Jackson's Lanier High School,
30 Percy's rapport within Jackson and surrounding area was of
31 unparalleled proportion as an animal lover and caretaker, which
32 blossomed into a passionate success and career as a zookeeper at
33 the Jackson Zoo and an independent petting zoo operator, which
34 afforded him the opportunity to travel all over the state to
35 entertain children of all ages, young and old; and

36 WHEREAS, a talented violinist, Mr. King's fondness for
37 animals began early on in life, when his mother allowed him to
38 have a "mini zoo" in the family's backyard, which groomed Percy to
39 become a self-taught animal aficionado with a broad knowledge base
40 for the animals in his collection as well as those he worked with
41 during his 14-year tenure with the Jackson Zoo from 1970-2011; and

42 WHEREAS, often in high demand, the "Snakeman" would make
43 appearances as the highlight of countless birthday parties,
44 festivals sponsored by various religious and civic groups, in



45 addition to holding a standing appointment each October with the
46 Mississippi State Fair, where he showcased his private menagerie
47 of exotic animals and educated those who viewed his exhibit on
48 animal facts and overcoming their phobias toward certain animals,
49 particularly the reptiles; and

50 WHEREAS, acquiring the name "Snakeman" for the act of riding
51 around the city in his green Dodge Caravan with a huge python
52 inside coupled with his public love and collection of pet snakes,
53 Mr. King, who served on the Jackson Zoo's Board of Directors, was
54 a community and civic-minded Christian soldier, a champion of
55 peace, who spent the vast majority of his life in a role of Good
56 Samaritanship, as he tried to help anyone in need without
57 expectation of recompense; and

58 WHEREAS, in his transfiguration from mortality to
59 immortality, Mr. King now adorns the spiritual raiment, awaiting
60 the bridegroom's return in holy anticipation of that wondrous
61 event recorded in Revelation 21:1-2 - "And I saw a new Heaven and
62 a new earth: for the first Heaven and the first earth were passed
63 away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new
64 Jerusalem, coming down from God out of Heaven, prepared as a bride
65 adorned for her husband"; and

66 WHEREAS, though he has traversed the river of life to now
67 stand upon the celestial shores of Heaven's grandeur, the legacy
68 of Mr. King's indelible imprint upon our lives will continue to
69 refresh the hearts and fond memories of his beloved survivors; and



70 WHEREAS, we encourage the family to find solace from the
71 overwhelming sadness created by the earthly departure of their
72 beloved family member and renewed in their faith that Percy
73 fulfilled the purpose of his appointed time in adherence to the
74 commandment of II Timothy 4:7, by having "fought a good fight,
75 finishing his course and keeping the faith until the hour of his
76 departure was at hand"; and

77 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
78 commend the life of such a genuine, loving and selfless individual
79 as Mr. King, whose life light illuminated the path of hope and
80 sprinkled showers of joyous excitement for all he encountered
81 along this earthly sojourn:

82 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
83 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
84 mourn the loss and commemorate the life, legacy and service of Mr.
85 Percy Alehman "Snakeman" King, to whose family we express sincere
86 and deepest sympathy upon his passing.

87 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
88 furnished to the family of Mr. King and to the members of the
89 Capitol Press Corps.

