

By: The Entire Membership

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 24

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND  
2 LEGACY OF MRS. CLIMENTINE "CLIMMIE" RICHARDSON WILLIAMS.

3 WHEREAS, it is written in Ecclesiastes 3:1 that "To  
4 everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under  
5 the Heaven," and as such, on February 2, 2018, the immaculate  
6 author and finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal  
7 presence of dearly beloved, Mrs. Climentine Richardson Williams,  
8 to eternal rest, rendering great sorrow and loss to her family and  
9 friends; and

10 WHEREAS, the City of Indianola, the entirety of Sunflower  
11 County and the State of Mississippi lost a wonderful friend,  
12 educator extraordinaire and community pillar with the passing of  
13 Mrs. Williams, who was the seventh of 12 children born to Pete and  
14 Matilda Curry Richardson on September 25, 1932; and

15 WHEREAS, Mrs. Williams professed her faith in Jesus Christ at  
16 the early age of 10 and was baptized and united with the Mt. Olive  
17 Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of the late  
18 Reverend W.L. Kirkland, where she remained a faithful and devoted



19 servant of the Lord for 75 years, and now she enjoys the eternal  
20 peace described in Luke 2:29, "Lord, now you are letting your  
21 servant depart in peace, according to your word"; and

22 WHEREAS, after obtaining her early education at Stephenville  
23 School, Climmie graduated with the first class of Gentry High  
24 School in 1953, and because of her athleticism, she earned a  
25 basketball scholarship to Mississippi Vocational College, now  
26 Mississippi Valley State University, and graduated with a  
27 bachelor's degree in business education in 1957; and

28 WHEREAS, Climmie began her illustrious teaching career at her  
29 alma mater, Gentry High School, where her career as an educator  
30 was nothing short of heroic, as the goodwill and inspiration she  
31 provided to her students undoubtedly had a profound effect on  
32 their future success; and

33 WHEREAS, her 35-year teaching career traversed a variety of  
34 subjects, including typing, serving as the 4-H sponsor, coaching  
35 the girls basketball team, and providing secretarial services, but  
36 at each and every step along her way, she encouraged her students  
37 to study the fundamentals, inspired them to believe in themselves  
38 as she so strongly believed in them, and helped them reach their  
39 fullest potential and achieve their dreams; and

40 WHEREAS, Climmie's graciousness, compassion and extensive  
41 intellect charmed not only her many adoring students but the heart  
42 and soul of a man named Elmira Williams, and the two lovebirds  
43 exchanged the vows of holy matrimony with the words "I do,"



44 completing their family unit with the addition of four exquisite  
45 daughters; and

46 WHEREAS, because of the enthusiasm that Mrs. Williams had for  
47 learning and high academic achievement, the excellent strides she  
48 made at the chalkboard, and the successes she saw on the  
49 basketball court, she was inducted into the Mississippi Valley  
50 State University Hall of Fame in 1992 and the Gentry High School  
51 Hall of Fame in 2016; and

52 WHEREAS, even though she was consumed with her teaching  
53 responsibilities, Mrs. Williams was affiliated with a number of  
54 elite social and civic organizations including, the Sunflower  
55 County Educational Association, the Mississippi Association of  
56 Educators, the National Education Association, the Martin Luther  
57 King Birthday Committee, the Bill Richardson Civic Alliance, the  
58 Dorothy I. Height Quad Counties Section of the National Council of  
59 Negro Women, Inc., of which she was a chartered member, and The  
60 Regalettes Social and Civic Club, of which she was a founding  
61 member and participant for 55 years; and

62 WHEREAS, a passionate educator, whether at home, church or  
63 school, and a strong, loving and compassionate wife, mother,  
64 grandmother and friend, Mrs. Climentine Williams was the epitome  
65 of class, beauty and grace, and through her kind, sincere heart  
66 and undeniable energy, she touched the lives of all those who  
67 crossed her tender and charming path, and her warm hugs and bright  
68 smile will be forever cherished in the hearts and memories of her



69 family, friends, former colleagues, former students, church  
70 friends and others who knew her and experienced her greatness; and

71 WHEREAS, the memory of Mrs. Williams, a woman held in the  
72 highest regard by friends and family as an inspiring and precious  
73 gift from God, will continue to refresh the hearts and memories of  
74 her beloved survivors: her daughters, Katrina McDowell, Bridgett  
75 Collier and Candace Stringfellow; grandchildren, Roderick, Kennedy  
76 and Lucas; great-grandchildren, Troy and Abel; goddaughter, Donnis  
77 G. Thomas; sisters, Hester R. Powell, Macelle R. Turner and State  
78 Representative Sara Richardson Thomas; and a host of other  
79 relatives and friends; and

80 WHEREAS, we encourage the family to find solace from the  
81 overwhelming sadness created by the earthly departure of their  
82 beloved family member in Revelation 21:4, wherein is recorded,  
83 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there  
84 shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall  
85 there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" and  
86 be renewed in their faith that Mrs. Williams fulfilled the  
87 commandment of II Timothy 4:7 by having fought a good fight,  
88 finishing her course and keeping the faith until the hour of her  
89 departure was at hand; and

90 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
91 recognize and honor the lives of fine Mississippians, especially  
92 those such as Mrs. Climentine Williams, a positive role model and  
93 exceptional teacher who always put others before herself, loved



94 her family and friends unconditionally, and worshipped the Lord  
95 God Almighty with all of her heart, bringing glory and honor to  
96 the State of Mississippi:

97       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
98 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
99 mourn the loss and commemorate the life and legacy of Mrs.  
100 Climentine "Climmie" Richardson Williams, and express deepest  
101 sympathy to her family and friends upon her passing.

102       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
103 furnished to the family of Mrs. Climentine Richardson Williams and  
104 to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

