

By: Representative Banks

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 28

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND
2 LEGACY OF MRS. ODELL GATEWOOD SAULTER WRIGHT.

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 January 8, 2018, the immaculate
6 author and finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal
7 presence of dearly beloved, Mrs. Odell Gatewood Saulter Wright, to
8 eternal rest, rendering great sorrow and loss to her family and
9 friends; and

10 WHEREAS, born on January 16, 1926, in Belzoni, Mississippi,
11 Odell spent her early years with her mother and sisters, learning
12 how to cook, making delectable jellies, baking scrumptious cakes,
13 sewing beautiful garments, playing intense card games, drawing
14 beautiful pictures, and reading and writing riveting stories; and

15 WHEREAS, when she was 15 years old, Odell joined her sister,
16 Mary Alice, at Tougaloo Preparatory School to complete her high
17 school education and was expected to complete her college degree
18 at Tougaloo College; however, after her freshman year, she decided



19 to enroll in Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee,
20 to complete her degree; and

21 WHEREAS, Odell received more than just a degree while
22 attending Tennessee State University, she met and married the love
23 of her life, Mr. Benjamin Saulter of Cincinnati, Ohio, and after
24 graduation, Mr. and Mrs. Saulter moved to Cleveland, Mississippi,
25 where he became a band director at a local high school and she was
26 a homemaker; and

27 WHEREAS, after living in the Mississippi Delta for a number
28 of years, Mr. and Mrs. Saulter decided to move back to Mr.
29 Saulter's hometown, Cincinnati, and it was in Cincinnati that they
30 started their family, completing the family unit with the addition
31 of three boys, Benjamin, Harvey and David; and

32 WHEREAS, unfortunately, Mr. Saulter succumbed to sickle cell
33 anemia in 1970, and many years later, Odell met and married
34 Reverend Samuel Wright, and the two spent many blissful, loving
35 years together before his passing; and

36 WHEREAS, after much encouragement from her sisters, Mary
37 Alice Moman and Evelyn Banks, and due to the harsh Ohio winters,
38 Mrs. Wright moved back to the humid air and warm temperatures of
39 Mississippi, and after living with Mary Alice for a few years,
40 Mrs. Wright moved into Harmony Court, an assisted living facility;
41 and

42 WHEREAS, during her stay at the facility, Mrs. Wright truly
43 put the "harmony" in Harmony Court, as she met no strangers, never



44 had a down day, and could often be found in the lobby, welcoming
45 guests with a million-watt smile and visiting, talking and
46 laughing with her friends, ultimately serving as a beacon of hope
47 and a ray of sunshine for all those who entered the facility; and

48 WHEREAS, a strong, loving and compassionate wife, mother,
49 grandmother and friend, Mrs. Odell Gatewood Saulter Wright was the
50 epitome of class, beauty and grace, and through her kind, sincere
51 heart and undeniable energy, she touched the lives of all those
52 who crossed her tender and charming path, and her warm hugs and
53 bright smile will be forever cherished in the hearts and memories
54 of her family, friends, and others who knew her and experienced
55 her greatness; and

56 WHEREAS, the memory of Mrs. Wright, a woman held in the
57 highest regard by friends and family as an inspiring and precious
58 gift from God, will continue to refresh the hearts and memories of
59 her beloved survivors: her sons, Benjamin Saulter and David
60 Saulter; daughter-in-law, Sheri Saulter; sisters, Mary Alice Moman
61 and Evelyn Banks; and a host of grandchildren,
62 great-grandchildren, other relatives and friends; and

63 WHEREAS, we encourage the family to find solace from the
64 overwhelming sadness created by the earthly departure of their
65 beloved family member in Revelation 21:4, wherein is recorded,
66 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there
67 shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall
68 there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" and



69 renewed in their faith that Mrs. Wright fulfilled the commandment
70 of II Timothy 4:7 by having fought a good fight, finishing her
71 course and keeping the faith until the hour of her departure was
72 at hand; and

73 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
74 recognize and honor the lives of fine Mississippians, especially
75 those such as Mrs. Odell Gatewood Saulter Wright, a positive,
76 exceptional woman who always put others before herself and loved
77 her family and friends unconditionally, bringing glory and honor
78 to the State of Mississippi:

79 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
80 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
81 mourn the loss and commemorate the life and legacy of Mrs. Odell
82 Gatewood Saulter Wright, and express deepest sympathy to her
83 family and friends upon her passing.

84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
85 furnished to the family of Mrs. Odell Gatewood Saulter Wright and
86 to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

