

By: Representative Jackson

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 35

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MS. ARILLA
2 KERNEY AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS
3 UPON HER PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, it is written in Ecclesiastes 3:1 that "To
5 everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under
6 the Heaven," and as such, on January 23, 2018, the immaculate
7 author and finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal
8 presence of dearly beloved, Ms. Arilla Kerney, to eternal rest,
9 rendering great sorrow and loss to her family and friends; and

10 WHEREAS, born on February 23, 1945, to the late Adelaide
11 Kerney of Como, Mississippi, Ms. Kerney, one who relied heavily on
12 her faith, confessed her belief in Christ at an early age and was
13 baptized by Reverend Sam Gathering, and she remained devout in her
14 Christian service and patronage throughout her life, reflecting
15 her passion for God through her commitment to assisting others and
16 her Christ-like care and concern for the building of the kingdom,
17 an allegiance to which she continued to manifest as a member of
18 her church, where she faithfully served in numerous capacities for



19 over 60 years, such as a member of the Usher Board, a member of
20 the Mass Choir, a member of the Kitchen Committee, a retired Youth
21 Sunday School teacher, a Vacation Bible School leader and a church
22 custodian; and

23 WHEREAS, a graduate of North Panola Vocational High School in
24 Como, where she was a member of the varsity girls basketball team,
25 Ms. Kerney later attended Mississippi Valley State University,
26 where she majored in business administration, and in the summer of
27 1966, she was hired by William & Carter Factory in Senatobia,
28 Mississippi, as a sewing machine operator, her main reason for
29 accepting the position was to save money to purchase a home for
30 her mother and other family members, which she was later able to
31 do; and

32 WHEREAS, Ms. Kerney imitated her mother in many ways by being
33 an excellent cook, baker and a strong pillar in her church and
34 community, and she was also an active, dependable and faithful
35 member of the 4-H Club, Como Homemakers, Panola County Homemakers,
36 Heroines of Jericho Orient Court #60, 15 District Order of the
37 Eastern Star, Bright Light Chapter 197 OES, Panola County Triad,
38 the secretary of the Panola County Democratic Executive Committee,
39 chairperson of the Town of Como Democratic Committee, secretary of
40 the Panola County Branch of the NAACP, the Lady Chief of the
41 Evergreen Usher Federation, treasurer of the District #2 Women's
42 Convention, co-chairperson of the District #2 Salad Fiesta, the
43 vice president of the North Mississippi Baptist Education



44 Convention Women's Division and the secretary of the Association
45 of Churches; and

46 WHEREAS, Ms. Kerney enjoyed spending quality time with her
47 family, cooking Sunday dinner, travelling and celebrating life,
48 and as a strong, loving and compassionate individual, Ms. Kerney
49 was the epitome of class, beauty and grace, and through her kind,
50 sincere heart and undeniable energy, she touched the lives of all
51 those who crossed her path, and she will be cherished in the
52 hearts and memories of her family, friends, church friends and
53 others who knew her and experienced her greatness; and

54 WHEREAS, though she has traversed the river of life to
55 reunite with those who answered God's summons to life eternal and
56 now beckon her arrival to the celestial shores of Heaven's
57 grandeur, including her grandparents, mother and three siblings,
58 the legacy of Ms. Kerney's memory, which if put to music, would be
59 a majestic symphonic masterpiece composed by the Holy Trinity,
60 will continue to refresh the hearts and fond memories of her
61 beloved survivors, including her two sons, Melvin Lee Bradley and
62 Patrick (Angela) Kerney, her god daughter, Lara Bobo, her sister,
63 Dorothy Kerney-Wilbourn, her brother, Clifton (Lowraine) Davis,
64 Jr., her sister-in-law, Katherine Kerney, and her six
65 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, a host of nieces,
66 nephews, cousins and friends; and

67 WHEREAS, we encourage her family and friends to find solace
68 from the overwhelming sadness created by the earthly departure of



69 their beloved Ms. Kerney, for in Revelation 21:4, where it is
70 written, "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and
71 there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither
72 shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed
73 away," and Ms. Kerney's loved ones should also be comforted that
74 she fulfilled the commandment of II Timothy 4:7 by having "fought
75 a good fight, finishing her course and keeping the faith until the
76 hour of her departure was at hand"; and

77 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
78 recognize and commend the lives of great Mississippians,
79 especially those such as Ms. Arilla Kerney, a positive role model
80 and exceptional individual who always put others before herself,
81 loved her family and friends unconditionally, and worshipped the
82 Lord God Almighty with all of her heart, bringing glory and honor
83 to the State of Mississippi:

84 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
85 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
86 commend the life and mourn the loss of Ms. Arilla Kerney, and
87 express deepest sympathies to her family and friends upon her
88 passing.

89 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
90 furnished to members of Ms. Arilla Kerney's family and to the
91 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

