

By: Representatives Dortch, Baria, Bell
(65th), Hines, Johnson (94th), Paden,
Straughter, Williams-Barnes

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 44

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE AWARD-WINNING AND CRITICALLY
2 ACCLAIMED NOVELIST JESMYN WARD FOR HER MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND
3 WISHING HER MANY MORE YEARS OF SUCCESS.

4 WHEREAS, celebrated novelist and Mississippi Gulf Coast
5 native Jesmyn Ward, is the first woman and first person of color
6 to win two National Book Awards for Fiction; and

7 WHEREAS, she has also won the Strauss Living Award, which is
8 given every five years by the American Academy of Arts & Letters
9 for literary excellence and awarded a coveted MacArthur Foundation
10 Genius Grant; and

11 WHEREAS, she has been hailed by various media outlets as "the
12 standout writer of her generation"; and

13 WHEREAS, many of her stories are largely set on the
14 Mississippi Gulf Coast, where she grew up, experienced Hurricane
15 Katrina and lives today with her family; and

16 WHEREAS, her novels *Salvage the Bones*, *Where the Line Bleeds*
17 and *Men We Reaped* are more akin to memoirs that deal with social



18 and economic struggles, familial bonds and the complexities of
19 those relationships; and

20 WHEREAS, always pulling from her beloved Mississippi roots,
21 her novel, *Sing, Unburied, Sing*, which earned her second National
22 Book Award in 2017, as well as *New York Times*, "10 Best Books of
23 2017," explored rural southern living and the heartbreak that such
24 can bring; and

25 WHEREAS, this acclaimed novelist is also an adored professor
26 at Tulane University, where she teaches creative writing and
27 imparts her intellectual knowledge and wisdom to the next
28 generation of creative minds; and

29 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
30 praise and acknowledge creative Mississippians, such as Jesmyn
31 Ward, who bring great honor to our communities and to this great
32 Magnolia State:

33 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
34 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
35 commend and congratulate critically acclaimed novelist Jesmyn Ward
36 for her many accomplished works and wish her many more years of
37 success.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
39 furnished to Jesmyn Ward and to the members of the Capitol Press
40 Corps.

