

By: Representative Gibbs (72nd)

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 63

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. WYATT
2 WASHINGTON, JR., AND RECOGNIZING HIS POSTHUMOUS 100TH BIRTHDAY.

3 WHEREAS, born on February 9, 1918, Mr. Wyatt Washington, Jr.,
4 would have celebrated his 100th birthday on February 9, 2018, but
5 for his passing on June 8, 1997, and his family recently met for a
6 reunion to share their memories and celebrate his life; and

7 WHEREAS, born in Pocahontas, Mississippi, to Mr. Wyatt
8 Washington, Sr., and Mrs. Lucy Lee Washington, Mr. Washington
9 moved with his family to Jackson, Mississippi, in 1927 and
10 graduated from Lanier High School in 1936, and in 1938, he married
11 his childhood sweetheart, Ms. Mildred Guice; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Washington were blessed with eight
13 children, and their bond was so tremendously strong that after Mr.
14 Washington's passing, Mrs. Washington joined him in Heaven just
15 two weeks later, being just two months shy of 59 years of
16 marriage; and

17 WHEREAS, honorably discharged on December 22, 1945, Mr.
18 Washington was a World War II veteran, and during his service in



19 the United States Army, he was a certified crane operator and
20 light duty truck driver, and in his civilian life, he was a
21 carpenter by trade, and in 1942, he built the family home which
22 still stands to this day, and he also worked for Ferguson
23 Furniture Company and Banner Bedding Company for over 40 years,
24 and in his later years he retired into his own bedding business
25 named The Mattress House; and

26 WHEREAS, tremendously dedicated to his community and a
27 70-year resident of the Virden Addition neighborhood, Mr.
28 Washington was a community organizer that promoted African
29 American voter registration, and his family still possesses voter
30 poll tax receipts that were used during the time when African
31 Americans were forced to pay \$2.00 before they could vote; and

32 WHEREAS, in addition to his voting activism, Mr. Washington
33 was a member of the Hiram Grand Lodge Masons, and he was also a
34 devoted member of Cade Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, with his
35 name reflected on the cornerstone, and he served in various
36 positions in his church, such as a Deacon for over 40 years,
37 Deacon Board Secretary, Sunday School teacher and superintendent
38 and a member of the Transportation Committee; and

39 WHEREAS, though he has traversed the river of life and
40 reunited with those who answered God's summons to life eternal and
41 welcomed his arrival to the celestial shores of Heaven's grandeur,
42 the legacy of Mr. Washington will continue to refresh the hearts
43 and fond memories of his beloved survivors, including his



44 children: Walter Lee, Norma Jean, Grace LaVivian, Gloria Lemore,
45 Alvin Douglas, Wyatt Leon, William Talmadge and Carmen Lynole; his
46 sister, Lyneal Robinson; and a host of grandchildren,
47 great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, and numerous
48 nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends; and

49 WHEREAS, affectionately known as "Sonny," Mr. Washington was
50 a dedicated husband, father, neighbor, businessman and friend to
51 each person he encountered, and he leaves a rich legacy of true
52 Christian discipleship to all those who knew and loved him; and

53 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
54 honor the lives of outstanding Mississippians, especially those
55 such as Mr. Wyatt Washington, Jr., whose dedication to his family
56 and friends and whose service to others brings honor to his
57 family, his community and to the State of Mississippi:

58 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
59 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
60 commend the life and legacy of Mr. Wyatt Washington, Jr., and
61 recognize his posthumous 100th birthday, and express deepest
62 sympathies to his family and friends for their tremendous loss.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
64 furnished to the family of Mr. Wyatt Washington, Jr., and to the
65 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

