

By: Representative Perkins

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 65

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE, SERVICE AND LEGACY OF MR.  
2 ALIX H. SANDERS, SR., AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS  
3 FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, it is written in II Corinthians 4:17-18, "For our  
5 light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far  
6 more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at  
7 the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen:  
8 for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which  
9 are not seen are eternal," and as such, the immaculate author and  
10 finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal presence of  
11 dearly beloved, Mr. Alix H. Sanders, Sr., to rest eternally, as he  
12 has made life's final transition from earthly travailing to  
13 heavenly reward, rendering great sorrow and loss to his family and  
14 friends; and

15 WHEREAS, the City of Greenwood and the entire Leflore County  
16 Community lost a wonderful friend with the passing of esteemed  
17 barrister of the law, Mr. Sanders, on Friday, March 16, 2018, who  
18 now enjoys the eternal peace described in Luke 2:29, "Lord, now



19 you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your  
20 word"; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Sanders, a man of uncompromised faith, whose  
22 career as a well-versed attorney spanned some 50 years, was a  
23 trailblazer and iconic community pillar throughout Leflore County,  
24 becoming the county's first African-American practitioner of the  
25 law, as well as the first African-American County Supervisor; and

26 WHEREAS, from his humble beginnings in his native Greenwood,  
27 Mr. Sanders, upon completing his primary and secondary education  
28 in the public schools of Leflore County, furthered his academic  
29 and professional matriculation at Jackson State University and the  
30 University of Mississippi Law School, where he respectively earned  
31 a bachelor's degree in history and political science and his Juris  
32 Doctorate degree in 1966 and 1969, which made provisions for him  
33 to become a Reginald Heber Smith Community Lawyer Fellow, which  
34 postured him to receive additional training at the University of  
35 Pennsylvania, shaping himself into a man of valor and integrity;  
36 and

37 WHEREAS, upon the completion of his fellowship program and a  
38 brief internship in Washington, D.C., Mr. Sanders returned to his  
39 dear Greenwood, where he accepted a position with the Lawyer's  
40 Committee for Civil Rights Law and served as director of North  
41 Mississippi Rural Legal Services, which immersed him into a life  
42 of community service advocating for the rights of the poor and  
43 disenfranchised, which chronicles his life and career as a



44 "defender of the poor, a refuge for the needy or distress, a  
45 strong shelter from the storm and a cool shade from the heat," as  
46 described by fellow Jackson State alum, James Bailey; and

47 WHEREAS, Mr. Sanders' fate would lend itself to being built  
48 in accordance with the blueprint divinely designed for the pattern  
49 of his life by the great deity and grand architect of our lives'  
50 destiny, when his love, chivalry and affection pierced the heart  
51 of the former Miss Betty Wilkins, and the duo became bone of one  
52 another's bone and flesh of one another's flesh after exchanging  
53 the nuptials of holy matrimony, building a lifetime of memories  
54 with the addition of three children, Nyasha, Neeka and Alix Jr.,  
55 with each of whom they shared the abundant blessings of honor and  
56 humility; and

57 WHEREAS, cognizant of the words recorded in II Thessalonians  
58 3:10 "that if any would not work, neither should he eat," Mr.  
59 Sanders was a diligent worker who, in addition to building a  
60 formidable private law practice, also served the citizens of  
61 Leflore County as a visionary member of the Board of Supervisors  
62 for 20 years who set out to accomplish things others would not  
63 dare dream of doing, in addition to providing legal counsel to the  
64 Greenwood, Holmes County and North Panola school boards, municipal  
65 judge for Greenwood and Tchula, Leflore County prosecutor and  
66 hearing office for the State Personnel Board; and

67 WHEREAS, one who never met a stranger, Mr. Sanders was the  
68 unifying tie that bound his family together, as he sought to



69 always be their provider, not only for his family, but as a  
70 community patriarch who led in an exemplary display of  
71 selflessness, as made evident through his professional and civic  
72 affiliations, including: president of the Leflore County Bar  
73 Association; the Magnolia Bar Association, which honored him with  
74 the organization's most prestigious award for achievement, the R.  
75 Jess Brown Award; 15 years of service on the CLE Commission of the  
76 Mississippi Bar Association; and recipient of the *Greenwood*  
77 *Commonwealth's* Community Service Award; and

78 WHEREAS, a God-fearing Christian before all other roles he  
79 assumed, a devoted husband, protective and doting father next, Mr.  
80 Sanders possessed an ambitious spirit akin to that of King David,  
81 he was a man after God's own heart, who demonstrated a great faith  
82 and commitment to Jesus Christ, his family and his church, Turner  
83 Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, a diligent service that  
84 confirms the recording of Roman 14:8, "If we live, we live for the  
85 Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. So whether we live or  
86 die, we belong to the Lord"; and

87 WHEREAS, in his transfiguration from mortality to  
88 immortality, Mr. Sanders now adorns the spiritual raiment,  
89 awaiting the bridegroom's return in holy anticipation of that  
90 wondrous event recorded in Revelation 21:1-2 - "And I saw a new  
91 Heaven and a new earth: for the first Heaven and the first earth  
92 were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the



93 holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of Heaven,  
94 prepared as a bride adorned for her husband"; and

95 WHEREAS, though he has traversed the river of life to reunite  
96 with those who answered God's summons to life eternal and now  
97 beckon his arrival to the celestial shores of Heaven's grandeur,  
98 the legacy of Mr. Sanders' indelible imprint upon our lives will  
99 continue to refresh the hearts and fond memories of his beloved  
100 survivors: his wife, the Honorable Betty Wilkins Sanders; his  
101 children, Attorney Neysha Sanders, Dr. Neeka Sanders Johnson,  
102 M.D., and Dr. Alix H. Sanders, Jr., DDS; and a host of other  
103 relatives and friends; and

104 WHEREAS, we encourage the family to find solace from the  
105 overwhelming sadness created by the earthly departure of their  
106 beloved family member and be renewed in their faith that Mr.  
107 Sanders fulfilled the purpose of his appointed time in adherence  
108 to the commandment of II Timothy 4:7, by having "fought a good  
109 fight, finishing his course and keeping the faith until the hour  
110 of his departure was at hand"; and

111 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
112 commend the life and service of such a genuine and selfless  
113 individual as Mr. Sanders, whose light illuminated the path of  
114 hope for all he encountered along this earthly sojourn:

115 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
116 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
117 mourn the loss and commemorate the life and legacy of Mr. Alix H.



118 Sanders, Sr., and express sincere and deepest sympathy upon his  
119 passing.

120 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
121 furnished to the family of Mr. Alix H. Sanders, Sr., and to the  
122 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

