

By: Representatives Hughes, Perkins

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 72

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND
2 MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DR. ALFIO RAUSA, M.D., AND EXPRESSING
3 DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS 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 3, 2018, the immaculate
7 author and finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal
8 presence of dearly beloved, Dr. Alfio Rausa, M.D., to eternal
9 rest, rendering great sorrow and loss to his family, friends and
10 community; and

11 WHEREAS, Dr. Rausa, the son of first-generation immigrants
12 from Sicily, Italy, was raised in The Bronx, New York, and after
13 graduating from Hunter College he returned to his roots and
14 attended medical school in Italy, and once he received his medical
15 degree, he married his fiancé Sylvanna, and purchased a one-way
16 ticket to America and never went back; and

17 WHEREAS, he originally moved to Greenwood, Mississippi, as a
18 Lieutenant Commander with the United States Public Health Service



19 Commissioned Corps, a position he held from 1966 until 1970, and
20 his intention was to stay for only a year, but he decided to stay
21 once he realized all the work that needed to be done in
22 Mississippi; and

23 WHEREAS, from a young age, Dr. Rausa had a habit of serving
24 others each and every day, and he devoted his life to helping
25 humanity, and once he was introduced to the issues that the
26 Mississippi Delta was facing, he was determined to make a
27 substantial difference; and

28 WHEREAS, following his two years in the Delta, the Public
29 Health Service sent him to one of the most prestigious public
30 health schools in the country, Columbia School of Public Health,
31 where the primary focus of education was the fundamental
32 philosophies of life and public health and the management of those
33 concepts; and

34 WHEREAS, in 1970, Dr. Rausa accepted a position as Regional
35 Public Health Officer in Greenwood with the Mississippi State
36 Department of Health, and in 1980 he was promoted to District
37 Health Officer in charge of Public Health District III and later
38 District I as well, and he held this position until he retired in
39 2017; and

40 WHEREAS, Dr. Rausa also served as the medical consultant for
41 WIC and its breastfeeding peer counselor program, and he always
42 encouraged the peer counselors and was always willing to speak
43 with other physicians, the media, at hospitals or events; and



44 WHEREAS, a public health hero who worked valiantly for half a
45 century to improve the health of Mississippians, Dr. Rausa leaves
46 a legacy of dedication to countless public health and community
47 efforts, and he founded many organizations and groups that
48 tremendously benefit the state, such as Life Help and a youth
49 soccer league, and he was also Chairman of the Fannie Lou Hamer
50 Cancer Foundation and made many contributions to the Golden Age
51 Nursing Home and many other projects and boards; and

52 WHEREAS, Dr. Rausa was an eccentric genius, a born leader,
53 an intellectual giant and a creative social engineer, and his
54 insight and compassion for people was boundless, and he was
55 tremendously driven, accomplishing something new each day; and

56 WHEREAS, a bouncing ball of boundless energy, Dr. Rausa was
57 an idea factory, but more than that, he was an inventor of the
58 machinery that made his abstract ideas come to life, and his
59 ability to attract and inspire others across all intellectual and
60 social lines to the same vision and goal was one of his many
61 unique gifts; and

62 WHEREAS, with an uncommon insight into the world, Dr. Rausa
63 was passionate, eloquent and fearless, and he was a physician who
64 had insight and a unique ability to formulate solutions to
65 problems, was a man of honor and integrity, and gave his life to
66 helping others and made an indelible impression on the lives of
67 those he touched and he will forever be cherished; and



68 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
69 recognize outstanding Mississippians, especially those such as Dr.
70 Alfio Rausa, M.D., whose passion for helping others and dedication
71 to his patients brings honor to his family, his community and to
72 the State of Mississippi:

73 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
74 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
75 mourn the loss and commemorate the life and many accomplishments
76 of Dr. Alfio Rausa, M.D., and express deepest sympathy to his
77 family and friends upon his passing.

78 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
79 furnished to Dr. Alfio Rausa's family and to the members of the
80 Capitol Press Corps.

