

By: Representatives Reynolds, Gipson

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 73

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE, SERVICE AND LEGACY OF  
2 VENERATED PUBLIC SERVANT MR. LARRY EDMOND CLARK, AND EXPRESSING  
3 DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS 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. Larry Edmond Clark, 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 Smith County Community and the entire citizenry  
16 of the State of Mississippi lost a wonderful friend with the  
17 passing of esteemed barrister of the law, Mr. Clark, on Monday,  
18 July 10, 2017, a man of uncompromised faith, whose career as a



19 well-versed attorney spanned some four decades and who was hailed  
20 as a trailblazer and iconic community pillar throughout Smith  
21 County, and who now enjoys the eternal peace described in Luke  
22 2:29, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,  
23 according to your word"; and

24 WHEREAS, from the humble beginnings of his birth on October  
25 4, 1947, the middle son of the Honorable John Smith Clark, Sr.,  
26 and Mrs. Mamie Craft Clark in Mize, Mississippi, Mr. Clark and his  
27 two brothers, were reared by their parents on the principle tenets  
28 of education, valor and uncompromised work ethic, which were  
29 reinforced throughout his formal academic grooming from his time  
30 as an impressionable student at Taylorsville High School, the  
31 McCallie School in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and 1965 graduate of  
32 Ellisville High School to masterfully matriculate through the  
33 realms of collegiate and professional academia as a 1969 recipient  
34 of a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Millsaps  
35 College and a sharp-witted 1972 graduate of the University of  
36 Mississippi School of Law, where he was a member of the Moot  
37 Court; and

38 WHEREAS, compelled to answer the call of defending the  
39 promises of freedom embodied in the statuesque body of Lady  
40 Liberty, Mr. Clark joined an elite fraternity of citizen soldiers  
41 when he joined the United States Army Reserve, and chose to take  
42 on the war of injustice in the battlefield of courtrooms in Smith  
43 County and throughout the State of Mississippi, where he returned



44 after completing active duty training to begin what would become a  
45 storied career of legal jurisprudence, and a life of integrity,  
46 service and humor; and

47 WHEREAS, the Smith County School Board retained Larry as  
48 attorney, setting him on a career-long path of interest and  
49 expertise in education and county government, resulting in several  
50 cases being argued before both Federal Courts and the Mississippi  
51 Supreme Court, including two groundbreaking decisions in: *Bassett*  
52 *v. Roberts*, which challenged the malapportioned districts of the  
53 Smith County Board of Supervisors in violation of the  
54 constitutionally mandated one man, one vote requirement, to  
55 require the districts to be equally reapportioned, and *Tally v.*  
56 *Smith County Board of Supervisors*, which tackled the abuses of  
57 cronyism in the leasing of 16th Section School lands for mere  
58 pennies per acre, and was a landmark case that served as the  
59 precursor to the passage of important legislation by the  
60 Legislature in 1978, which sought to and continues to protect the  
61 16th Section trust lands from many abuses; and

62 WHEREAS, upon taking a position with the Office of the  
63 Attorney General as a special assistant attorney general to Mike  
64 Moore, Mr. Clark immersed himself, for more than 12 years, in  
65 manning the helm as Director of the Opinions Division, as well as  
66 representing the State Auditor, Department of Audit and the  
67 Mississippi Ethics Commission, before being tapped as Deputy  
68 Attorney General over civil matters, which chronicled his life and



69 career as the embodiment of a public servant through his  
70 chairmanship of the Government Law Section of The Mississippi Bar  
71 Association, mentorship of countless young attorneys and  
72 impressing upon them the responsibility of their profession to be  
73 a "priest in the temple of justice"; and

74 WHEREAS, after retiring from public service, Mr. Clark  
75 practiced with Watkins Ludlam and, subsequent thereto, Purdie and  
76 Metz Law Firm, where the course of his legal profession came full  
77 circle as he returned to his passion of public education,  
78 representing the Simpson County Board of Education; and

79 WHEREAS, Mr. Clark's fate would lend itself to being built in  
80 accordance with the blueprint divinely designed for the pattern of  
81 his life by the Great Deity and grand architect of our lives'  
82 destiny, when his love, chivalry and affection pierced the heart  
83 of the former Miss Judith Polk, and the duo became bone of one  
84 another's bone and flesh of one another's flesh after exchanging  
85 the nuptials of holy matrimony in 1975, building a lifetime of  
86 memories with the addition of three daughters, Anne, Brynna and  
87 Laura, with each of whom they shared the abundant blessings of  
88 honor and humility; and

89 WHEREAS, one who never met a stranger, Mr. Clark was the  
90 unifying tie that bound his family together, whether through a  
91 humorous tale at family gatherings or providing historical  
92 perspective of current events in Mississippi and the nation as a  
93 guest columnist for *The Clarion-Ledger*; and



94           WHEREAS, a God-fearing Christian before all other roles he  
95 assumed, a devoted husband, protective and doting father next, Mr.  
96 Clark possessed an ambitious spirit akin to that of King David, he  
97 was a man after God's own heart, who demonstrated a great faith  
98 and commitment to Jesus Christ, his family and his church,  
99 Northminster Baptist Church, where he often taught Sunday School,  
100 a diligent service of abiding by the Golden Rule that confirms the  
101 recording of Roman 14:8, "If we live, we live for the Lord, and if  
102 we die, we die for the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong  
103 to the Lord"; and

104           WHEREAS, though he has traversed the river of life to reunite  
105 with those who answered God's summons to life eternal and now  
106 beckon his arrival to the celestial shores of Heaven's grandeur,  
107 the legacy of Mr. Clark's indelible imprint upon our lives will  
108 continue to refresh the hearts and fond memories of his beloved  
109 survivors: his wife of 42 years, Judith Polk Clark; his three  
110 daughters, Anne Clark Crader (Chris), Brynna Clark (Johnny) and  
111 Lauren Clark Ziegler (Alex); two grandchildren, Benton and Abigail  
112 Crader; brothers, John Clark (Janet) and the Honorable Eric Clark  
113 (Karan); mother-in-law, Edith Polk; brother-in-law, Brinson Polk;  
114 sister-in-law, Sherrye Polk Brame; and a host of other relatives  
115 and friends; and

116           WHEREAS, we encourage the family to find solace from the  
117 overwhelming sadness created by the earthly departure of their  
118 beloved family member and be renewed in their faith that Mr. Clark



119 fulfilled the purpose of his appointed time in adherence to the  
120 commandment of II Timothy 4:7, by having "fought a good fight,  
121 finishing his course and keeping the faith until the hour of his  
122 departure was at hand"; and

123 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
124 commend the life and service of such a genuine and selfless  
125 individual as Mr. Clark, whose life honored both The Mississippi  
126 Bar and this great state by illuminating the path of hope for all  
127 he encountered along this earthly sojourn:

128 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
129 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
130 mourn the loss and commemorate the life and legacy of venerated  
131 public servant Mr. Larry Edmond Clark, and express sincere and  
132 deepest sympathy to his family and friends upon his passing.

133 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
134 furnished to the family of Mr. Larry Edmond Clark and to the  
135 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

