

By: Representatives Gibbs (72nd), Bell
(65th), Sykes

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 78

1 A RESOLUTION HONORING AND CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF CIVIL
2 RIGHTS TRAILBLAZER FLONZIE "GOODLOE" BROWN-WRIGHT FOR HER MANY
3 HISTORIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS INCLUDING BEING THE FIRST
4 AFRICAN-AMERICAN FEMALE ELECTED TO PUBLIC OFFICE IN MISSISSIPPI
5 SINCE RECONSTRUCTION.

6 WHEREAS, in 1968, social activist Flonzie "Goodloe"
7 Brown-Wright made history when she was elected as an Election
8 Commissioner, making her the first African-American female elected
9 to public office in Mississippi since Reconstruction; and

10 WHEREAS, she utilized her position to correct many voting
11 injustices, appoint African Americans to key positions, and train
12 numerous African Americans to conduct elections, many of whom
13 still continue to serve; and

14 WHEREAS, a native of rural Farmhaven, Mississippi, she is the
15 only daughter of Mr. Frank and Mrs. Little P. Brown, attending
16 both public and private schools in Farmhaven and Canton,
17 Mississippi; and

18 WHEREAS, her passion for politics and the law motivated her
19 to attend Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi, where she



20 studied pre-law, black history and political science and went on
21 to graduate from the Institute of Politics at Millsaps College,
22 where she served as vice president and taught "Grassroots
23 Organizing and Campaign Management"; and

24 WHEREAS, after the assassination of Medgar Evers, she was
25 compelled to join the Mississippi Civil Rights Movement in 1963,
26 and serve as Field Secretary for the State NAACP; and

27 WHEREAS, in 1974, she was appointed to the U.S. Equal
28 Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) as an investigator and
29 worked tirelessly until 1989, when she retired with special
30 citations, including the Chairman's Service Award; and

31 WHEREAS, in 1994, she authored and published her first book,
32 *Looking Back to Move Ahead*, which chronicles her years growing up
33 in a small rural Mississippi town, and focuses on the involvement
34 of scores of unrecognized heroes and sheroes who were similarly
35 involved in the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s and 1970s
36 specifically in the city of Canton, Madison County, Mississippi,
37 and in 1999, became a best seller for an independent author; and

38 WHEREAS, she is President and CEO of FBW & Associates,
39 Incorporated of Jackson, Mississippi, a freelance marketing
40 consultant firm, and is founder of the Flonzie B. Wright
41 Scholarship Fund, a fund designed to encourage students to stay in
42 school. Since its inception, the fund has provided more than
43 \$40,000.00 in scholarship incentives to many students; and



44 WHEREAS, during the summer of 1997, she participated in
45 filming a documentary, *Standing on My Sisters' Shoulders*,
46 sponsored by the University of Mississippi, which was an
47 award-winning film that focused on a number of women, both black
48 and white, who were involved in the Southern Civil Rights
49 Movement; and

50 WHEREAS, the film was so poignant that she and others were
51 honored for this production at the John F. Kennedy Center for the
52 Performing Arts; and

53 WHEREAS, many accolades have been bestowed upon her during
54 her life, as she was featured in the nationally acclaimed *Purpose*
55 *Magazine* (January 1998), and *Tomorrow's South* (September 1999),
56 and in April 1999, she produced the video documentary, *And Before*
57 *I'll Be Your Slave*, which was a docudrama about her ancestors with
58 many stories which have impacted her life, she is featured and
59 served as an advisor to Jennifer Cheeks-Collins, also of Canton,
60 in her publication, *Black America Series, Madison County,*
61 *Mississippi*. In October 2008, she released *Standing Tall in Tough*
62 *Times* on DVD. Among other interviews, her parents tell of their
63 challenges because of her involvement in civil rights. Included
64 also is her August 2008 *Keynote Speech in Dayton, Ohio*, the night
65 President Barack Obama accepted the Democratic Party's
66 Presidential Nomination. From 2005 to 2010, she served Miami
67 University in Middletown, Ohio, as Student Affairs Scholar in
68 Residence where she co-wrote and taught a new curriculum, "Black



69 Issues in Higher Education." She is listed in *Who's Who Among*
70 *Black Americans* (1994/1995 edition) and is a member of the
71 National Association of Female Executives. She is among a number
72 of prestigious African Americans listed in *Who's Who Among Black*
73 *Mississippians*; and

74 WHEREAS, beloved by various communities throughout the
75 nation, she has received more than 400 community service awards,
76 including special honors from LeMoyne College in Syracuse, New
77 York, and an honor at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.; and

78 WHEREAS, in 2011, she accepted the appointment as co-event
79 director for the 50th Anniversary of the Mississippi Freedom
80 Riders Reunion. Her excellent skills in assisting with the
81 planning and execution were demonstrated in the success of this
82 historic celebration. Even though her travels have been extensive
83 and her achievements many, she simply refers to herself as "just a
84 country girl from Mississippi who loves the Lord and ALL people."
85 In 2014, Tougaloo College President Beverly Hogan appointed her as
86 a commissioner to assist in promoting the celebration of a number
87 of Civil Rights events; and

88 WHEREAS, this woman of faith and conviction is a diligent
89 member of New Hope Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi; and

90 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
91 celebrate and honor the positive historic legacies of
92 Mississippians, such as Mrs. Brown-Wright who has passionately
93 fought for the needs of the underserved:



94 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
95 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
96 honor and celebrate the legacy of Civil Rights Trailblazer Flonzie
97 "Goodloe" Brown-Wright, the first African-American female elected
98 to public office in Mississippi since Reconstruction.

99 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
100 furnished to Flonzie "Goodloe" Brown-Wright, to the Mississippi
101 Department of Archives and History, and to the members of the
102 Capitol Press Corps.

