

By: Representative Anderson

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 81

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE,
2 LEGACY AND SERVICE OF MRS. SHIRLEY GRAY OWENS AND EXPRESSING
3 DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HER 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, Mrs. Shirley Gray Owens, to rest eternally, on
12 Monday, March 12, 2018, as she has made life's final transition
13 from earthly travailing to heavenly reward, rendering great sorrow
14 and loss to her family and friends; and

15 WHEREAS, the Moss Point Community of Jackson County lost a
16 wonderful friend and decorated educator with the passing of Mrs.
17 Owens, born in Hattiesburg to the late Isaac H. Gray, Sr., and
18 Dorothy Gray on August 2, 1946, and there is now a hush in our



19 hearts as we come together to pay our respects to the memory of
20 one who has been called to join that innumerable heavenly caravan;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Mrs. Owens, a 1964 graduate of Rowan High School,
23 was encouraged to expand her religious experience by taking the
24 walk of faith and providently confessed her hope in Christ as an
25 impressionable and spiritually convicted youth under the auspices
26 of the Mount Olive Baptist Church under the leadership of Reverend
27 E.L. Jones, where she remained a faithfully dedicated member until
28 uniting in fellowship with Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church
29 upon relocating to Moss Point, under the ecclesiastical guidance
30 of Reverend Jessie James; and

31 WHEREAS, cognizant of the words recorded in II Thessalonians
32 3:10, "that if any would not work, neither should he eat," after
33 completing her collegiate matriculation at Jackson State
34 University in 1968, where she attained her baccalaureate degree in
35 speech and drama with a minor emphasis in English, Mrs. Owens
36 became an esteemed educator and mentor of the Moss Point School
37 District and devoted 37 years to students at Magnolia High School
38 and Moss Point High School, garnering a reputation as an
39 artistically talented playwright and drama instructor; and

40 WHEREAS, as fate would lend itself to being built in
41 accordance with the blueprint divinely designed for the pattern of
42 her life by the Great Deity and grand architect of our lives'
43 destiny, Shirley's heart was pierced by the love, chivalry and



44 affection of Mr. Lee Preston Owens, and the duo became bone of one
45 another's bone and flesh of one another's flesh after exchanging
46 the nuptials of holy matrimony, building a lifetime of memories
47 with the addition of two children, with whom they shared the
48 abundant blessings of love, honor and humility; and

49 WHEREAS, a God-fearing Christian before all other roles she
50 assumed, a devoted wife and nurturing, protective and caring
51 mother next, Mrs. Owens was the epitome of a woman of Proverbs
52 31:10 virtue who possessed an ambitious spirit akin to that of
53 King David, as she was a woman who sought the very heart of God
54 and demonstrated great faith and commitment to Jesus Christ
55 through diligent service that confirms the recording of Romans
56 14:8, "If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for
57 the Lord. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord"; and

58 WHEREAS, though she has traversed the river of life to
59 reunite with those who answered God's summons to life eternal and
60 now beckon her arrival to the celestial shores of Heaven's
61 grandeur, including her beloved husband, Mr. Lee Preston Owens,
62 her parents, and three siblings, Helen Jones, Isaac Jr. and Willie
63 Gray, Sr., the legacy of Mrs. Owens' indelible imprint upon our
64 lives will continue to refresh the hearts and fond memories of her
65 beloved survivors: children, DeMiracle (Carlos) Woodson and
66 Darvin Owens, Sr.; siblings, James, Henry, Alvin and Alice Gray;
67 grandchildren, Cameron and Devin Woodson and Darvin Owens, Jr.;

68 and a host of other relatives and friends; and



69 WHEREAS, we encourage the family to find solace from the
70 overwhelming sadness created by the earthly departure of their
71 beloved family member and be renewed in their faith that Mrs.
72 Owens fulfilled the purpose of her appointed time in adherence to
73 the commandment of II Timothy 4:7, by having "fought a good fight,
74 finishing her course and keeping the faith until the hour of her
75 departure was at hand"; and

76 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
77 commend the life of a genuine and selfless individual such as Mrs.
78 Owens, whose light illuminated the path of hope for all she
79 encountered along this earthly sojourn:

80 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
81 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
82 mourn the loss and commemorate the life and legacy of Mrs. Shirley
83 Gray Owens, and express sincere and deepest sympathy upon her
84 passing.

85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
86 furnished to the family of Mrs. Owens and to the members of the
87 Capitol Press Corps.

