

By: Representatives Watson, Perkins

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 88

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. LOUISE
2 COLLINS BELL BLAND AND CONGRATULATING HER ON THE OUTSTANDING
3 OCCASION OF HER 105TH BIRTHDAY.

4 WHEREAS, Mrs. Louise Collins Bell Bland celebrated her 105th
5 birthday on March 16, 2018, a truly momentous and outstanding
6 occasion; and

7 WHEREAS, one of six children born to Richard and Lizzie
8 Collins in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, on March 16, 1913, Mrs. Bland
9 grew up in Hattiesburg, attended Third Ward and Eureka Schools and
10 received her high school diploma from the American School of
11 Chicago, Illinois; and

12 WHEREAS, always working towards a goal, Mrs. Bland earned her
13 beautician's license and many other certificates and diplomas,
14 such as an English Bible Theology Diploma, Sunday School Worker's
15 Diploma and numerous Vacation Bible School Certificates; and

16 WHEREAS, Mrs. Bland married her first husband Mr. Bert Bell,
17 Sr., and they were blessed with five children, Bertie Mae Graves,



18 Annie Gould, William Bell, Dorothy Lucas and Bert Bell, Jr., and
19 years later she married Reverend Johnson Bland; and

20 WHEREAS, a God-fearing Christian before all other roles she
21 assumed, a devoted wife and nurturing mother, grandmother,
22 great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother, Mrs. Bland is the
23 living embodiment of a woman of Proverbs 31:10 distinction and she
24 possesses the ambitious spirit akin to that of King David, being
25 a woman after God's own heart, committed to her faith, her family
26 and her friends, and as an upstanding pillar of the community,
27 Mrs. Bland is a faithful member of Antioch Baptist Church where
28 she has diligently served as a Sunday School teacher, mentor to
29 the youth and member of the choir, and she played the piano for
30 Sunday School and trained young people to be ushers, youth leaders
31 and respectable citizens; and

32 WHEREAS, throughout her long life, Mrs. Bland has done her
33 best to spread God's love and peace everywhere she goes, and she
34 is tremendously proud that God has always been, and will always
35 be, the leader of her life, and she attributes her good health,
36 long life and success to her faith in God; and

37 WHEREAS, Mrs. Bland hopes that she leaves behind an
38 exceptional legacy as an example of someone who achieved success
39 by being focused, setting and pursuing goals, and most
40 importantly, by believing in God, and her central moral compass
41 echoes the heart of the Good Samaritan and her core ethical values



42 encompass the importance of family, community and the love of God;
43 and

44 WHEREAS, later in her adult life, Mrs. Bland has had the
45 opportunity to travel extensively, and her most rewarding
46 experience during her travels was visiting Israel and seeing some
47 of the places where Jesus taught during his time, and she appeared
48 on the "Today" television program and was a guest on "Wheel of
49 Fortune," and received one of Mayor Dupree's keys to the city of
50 Hattiesburg, and to celebrate her birthday her photo appeared on
51 the Smucker's Jelly Jar; and

52 WHEREAS, having lived through two centuries and witnessed the
53 many changes that have occurred in our nation, Mrs. Bland has seen
54 America change from an agrarian society to an advanced industrial
55 and technological giant, and she has lived during the terms of 27
56 Mississippi Governors and 18 United States Presidents, including
57 the inauguration of President Barack Obama, our nation's first
58 African-American president; and

59 WHEREAS, in 2014, Mrs. Bland was honored as Antioch Baptist
60 Church's "Mother of the Year," and her many friends consider her a
61 pillar of strength because her life symbolizes hope and success,
62 not only for a college educated person, but also for a person
63 without a college education; and

64 WHEREAS, blessed with 15 grandchildren, 11
65 great-grandchildren and 12 great-great-grandchildren, Mrs. Bland
66 is the matriarch of her family dynasty and remains the archetype



67 icon and central foundation of a family that retains an
68 unbreakable bond of love, honor, devotion, commitment and
69 encouragement for each generation; and

70 WHEREAS, at 105 years old, Mrs. Bland continues to be a
71 blessing to others through her encouraging nature and wise
72 counsel, and continues to live an active life, spending time with
73 her family, serving her church and enjoying the company of her
74 countless friends, and she shares her positive attitude and
75 optimistic outlook on life, while crediting the gift of her good
76 health, longevity and success to her unwavering faith in God; and

77 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
78 commend fine Mississippians, especially those such as Mrs. Louise
79 Collins Bell Bland, whose faith in God, devotion to her family and
80 dedication to her church bring honor to her family, her community
81 and to the Magnolia State:

82 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
83 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
84 commend the life and legacy of Mrs. Louise Collins Bell Bland and
85 congratulate her on the outstanding occasion of her 105th
86 birthday, and extend best wishes for success in all of her future
87 endeavors.

88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
89 furnished to Mrs. Louise Collins Bell Bland and to the members of
90 the Capitol Press Corps.

