

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Jackson (11th),
Jackson (32nd), Norwood, Frazier, Michel,
Blount, Blackmon, Simmons (13th), Butler,
Barnett, Jordan, Chassaniol, Witherspoon,
Turner-Ford, Dearing

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 575

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF WILLORA
2 CRAFT EPHRAM, THE OWNER OF JACKSON LANDMARK "PEACHES RESTAURANT,"
3 AND EXTENDING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE LEGISLATURE ON HER PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of
5 Willora Craft Ephram, the owner of Peaches Restaurant, a Jackson
6 landmark, who passed away on January 28, 2018; and

7 WHEREAS, Willora Craft Ephram was affectionately known as
8 "Peaches." Ms. Ephram saved her money until she was able to open
9 the Southern soul-food restaurant in 1961. Everyone from Muhammad
10 Ali to Medgar Evers to Barack Obama visited the eatery; and

11 WHEREAS, along with delicious food, a bit of history comes
12 with the Peaches experience. During the Civil Rights Era, leaders
13 of the Movement dined in the restaurant, and President Barack
14 Obama made a stop at Peaches Restaurant during his trip to Jackson
15 while on the campaign trail. Integration took away the core
16 African-American businesses from Farish Street during the 1970s,
17 causing many to close or relocate. But Peaches Restaurant
18 remained much as it was; and



19 WHEREAS, Peaches Restaurant was a soul-food Mecca on Farish
20 Street since Willora "Peaches" Ephram first opened the doors in
21 1961. Her son, Roderick Ephram, continued to run Peaches
22 Restaurant until its closing in 2013. Roderick is proud of the
23 rich history and symbolism his mother's restaurant has in the City
24 of Jackson. While Peaches did not have a formal mission
25 statement, Ephram says, "Just know that it was Jackson's original
26 soul-food restaurant"; and

27 WHEREAS, Ephram says that Peaches had a positive influence,
28 mainly because the restaurant welcomed everyone with open arms.
29 His mother's goal, he says, was to feed the people, even the ones
30 who were homeless. This kind of warm welcome may be why Peaches
31 Restaurant was successful for so long. The city is making moves
32 to revitalize the historic Farish Street area, once a thriving
33 African-American community in the heart of Jackson before
34 desegregation and urban renewal; and

35 WHEREAS, in 2002, Ms. Ephram received a Hometown Hero in
36 Travel and Tourism Award from the Jackson Convention and Visitors
37 Bureau. She also received Keys to the City from two Jackson
38 mayors. In 2013, illness caused Ms. Ephram to step down from
39 running the business; and

40 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we pay tribute to the
41 history of this iconic Jackson family business and cherish fondly
42 the memory of a most public-spirited citizen of Mississippi:



43 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
44 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
45 we do hereby recognize the legacy of Willora Craft Ephram, the
46 owner of Jackson Landmark "Peaches Restaurant," and extend the
47 condolences of the Legislature on her passing.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
49 the surviving family of "Peaches" Ephram and made available to the
50 Capitol Press Corps.

