

By: Senator(s) Jordan, Jackson (11th),
Jackson (32nd), Barnett, Frazier, Norwood,
Simmons (12th), Simmons (13th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 643

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE
2 MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY OF LONGTIME
3 GREENWOOD ATTORNEY AND FORMER LEFLORE COUNTY SUPERVISOR ALIX
4 SANDERS.

5 WHEREAS, we join the citizens of Greenwood and Leflore County
6 in mourning the passing of Alix Sanders, a longtime Greenwood
7 Attorney, former Leflore County Supervisor, a man of many firsts,
8 and a trailblazer in the community, who passed away on March 16,
9 2018; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Sanders was the first African-American to
11 practice law in Leflore County, the first African-American Leflore
12 County Supervisor, and the first African-American President of the
13 Leflore County Bar Association; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Sanders, a Greenwood native, began his
15 collegiate years at Jackson State University, where he earned a
16 Bachelor's Degree in History and Political Science in 1966. After
17 graduation, he attended the University of Mississippi Law School,
18 where he was honored in August 2017 as one of the first
19 African-Americans to complete his schooling there from start to



20 finish. Mr. Sanders has said he pursued a law degree out of a
21 desire to bring about change; and

22 WHEREAS, after graduation in 1969, Mr. Sanders was named a
23 Reginald Heber Smith Community Lawyer Fellow and received
24 additional law training at the University of Pennsylvania. He
25 worked for the North Mississippi Rural Legal Services (NMRLS), an
26 organization that has provided representation to many civil rights
27 protesters and activists and serves underprivileged clients; and

28 WHEREAS, after an internship with a Washington, D.C., law
29 firm, he returned to Greenwood in the 1970s. He accepted a
30 position with the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Law and
31 served as Director of North Mississippi Rural Legal Services; and

32 WHEREAS, Mr. Sanders was also active in the political arena.
33 In 1975, he ran unsuccessfully for Leflore County Supervisor but
34 did not give up. Mr. Sanders then ran in the 1979 Supervisor
35 Campaign, which he won. He served on the board for 20 years,
36 including periods as its Vice President and President, and also
37 was once President of the Mississippi Association of Black
38 Supervisors; and

39 WHEREAS, Mr. Sanders and the other supervisors completed a
40 number of projects, including upgrading roads and overseeing the
41 construction of the Leflore County Civic Center. Mr. Sanders also
42 helped with projects in the Rising Sun Community, such as building
43 a park; and



44 WHEREAS, during his legal career, Mr. Sanders provided legal
45 counsel to Greenwood, Holmes County and North Panola School
46 Boards, served as Hearing Officer for school boards in cases that
47 involved adverse actions against employees, and served as a
48 Greenwood Municipal Judge, Tchula Municipal Judge, Leflore County
49 Youth Prosecutor, and Hearing Officer for the State of Mississippi
50 Personnel Board; and

51 WHEREAS, he was active in Turner Chapel African Methodist
52 Episcopal Church, and in 2009, he received the Commonwealth's
53 Community Service Award; and

54 WHEREAS, although he was well-known for his accomplishments
55 and public service, he was a family man first. The couple, who
56 began dating in high school, celebrated their 50th Anniversary in
57 June 2017. They have three children: Neysha Sanders, Neeka
58 Sanders Johnson and Alix H. Sanders, Jr.; and three grandchildren:
59 LeBron, Conner and Taylor; and

60 WHEREAS, Mr. Sanders' wife, Betty, a former Circuit Judge,
61 called him "undoubtedly the Captain of our ship. He was an
62 inspiring leader, a conqueror in the face of adversity, a man of
63 many firsts, a man of uncompromised faith, unyielding strength,
64 endless wit and immeasurable generosity"; and

65 WHEREAS, Mr. Sanders leaves a lasting legacy not only in his
66 home community but throughout all Mississippi. His passion for
67 helping build community in the Mississippi Delta was unlike any
68 other. He will truly be missed:



69 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
70 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
71 we do hereby extend the condolences of the Mississippi Legislature
72 to the bereaved family of longtime Greenwood Attorney and former
73 Leflore County Supervisor Alix Sanders.

74 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
75 the surviving family of Mr. Sanders, forwarded to the Leflore
76 County Board of Supervisors and made available to the Capitol
77 Press Corps.

