

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Barnett, Blount,
Frazier, Jordan, Norwood, Simmons (12th),
Simmons (13th)

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 3

1 A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE MISSISSIPPI
2 SENATE TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY OF BISHOP HOLLIS MUSGROVE PRELATE
3 EMERITUS.

4 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of
5 respected Christian and Civic Leader Bishop Hollis Musgrove of
6 Jackson, Mississippi, on New Years Day, January 1, 2018; and

7 WHEREAS, Bishop Hollis Musgrove's life journey began January
8 24, 1928, in Soso, Mississippi (a small town outside of Laurel,
9 Mississippi). He was the only son and the youngest of four born
10 to Alson and Annie Mae Musgrove. He was preceded in death by his
11 parents; siblings: Alberta Flynn, Lela Shelby and Leola
12 Blackwell; and son, Richard Bruce; and

13 WHEREAS, never a stranger to hard work, the young Musgrove
14 was just eight years old when he started working for his
15 grandfather on the family farm. He received his formal education
16 from Oak Park High School in Laurel, Mississippi. Upon
17 graduation, Bishop Musgrove joined the United States Army and
18 served admirably for 38 months before being honorably discharged.



19 He began working at Mingle Plywood Company and taking night
20 classes in tailoring and education through the Jones County
21 Veterans program. After his tenure at Mingle, Bishop Musgrove
22 went on to work as an agent for the Lincoln Life Insurance
23 Company. He later enrolled at Alcorn College (now Alcorn State
24 University) in Lorman, Mississippi. With a desire for upward
25 mobility and to further his education in theology while enhancing
26 his ministry, Bishop Musgrove pursued studies at the Charles
27 Harrison Mason System of Bible Colleges in Memphis, Tennessee,
28 where he received a certificate of Pastoral Theology in 1978. In
29 2002, he received an Honorary Doctorate Degree in Divinity from
30 Saint Thomas Christian College, Jacksonville, Florida; and

31 WHEREAS, in the early 1950s, Bishop Musgrove had heard about
32 the services at the Laurel #1 Church of God in Christ, and decided
33 to attend. During his visit, the Jurisdictional Holy Convocation
34 was in session and God moved and blessed him in a mighty way.
35 Bishop Musgrove came into the knowledge of Holiness at the close
36 of the meeting in 1954 after hearing young Minister Marcus Butler
37 preach the soul-stirring message "Loose the Man and Let Him Go."
38 Later, under Pastor W.D. Hines, Bishop Musgrove accepted Christ as
39 his personal Savior and was filled with the gift of the Holy
40 Ghost. Thus, from that day forward, he faithfully served and
41 followed the Lord for the duration of his life; and

42 WHEREAS, Bishop Musgrove was ordained an Elder in the Church
43 of God in Christ by Bishop Theo Davis. For over 66 years, he



44 rendered service to God, humanity and the Church of God in Christ.
45 He became known throughout the brethren for always ministering to
46 the needs of people and holding true to his philosophy that:
47 "Everybody Is Somebody"; and

48 WHEREAS, Bishop Musgrove served his beloved church in
49 numerous assignments, including: First Administrative Assistant
50 to Bishop Theo Davis, 1982-1991; Second Administrative Assistant
51 to Bishop Davis, 1976-1982; State Secretary, 1964-1986; District
52 Superintendent, 1979-1986; District President; YPWW Department,
53 1958-1970; Vice President, Southern Mississippi Church of God in
54 Christ Corporation, 1968-1980; and Executive Board Chairman,
55 Mississippi Southern First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Church of
56 God in Christ, 1986-1989; and

57 WHEREAS, in January of 1992, Bishop Hollis Musgrove was
58 elevated and installed as the Jurisdictional Prelate of the
59 Mississippi Southern First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, the third
60 in succession, by Presiding Bishop Louis H. Ford. Bishop Musgrove
61 governed his life by the motto "Being geared to the times, but
62 being anchored to the Rock." His tenure as Bishop was
63 distinguished by his progressive style of leadership, which caused
64 tremendous growth within the Jurisdiction. Presently, the
65 Jurisdiction has 136 functioning churches, over 200 ordained
66 Elders and 175-plus licensed Missionaries. To date, 36 new
67 edifices of worship have been erected from the ground up, 30
68 churches have been refurbished and the Jurisdiction expanded from



69 nine to 14 districts. Even in Emeritus status, Bishop Musgrove
70 continued to be a highly-respected Elder Statesman in the College
71 of Bishops of the Church of God in Christ; and

72 WHEREAS, under the leadership of Bishop Musgrove, Mississippi
73 Southern First Jurisdiction became an active force in local and
74 state communities. Consequently, several economic and community
75 development programs were established to help serve individuals
76 and families in surrounding neighborhoods. Additional programs
77 were developed, including, but not limited to, student
78 scholarships, college preparation and professional development
79 training, COGIC Meals on Wheels and single-family homes for the
80 elderly and medical assistance; and

81 WHEREAS, Bishop Musgrove was actively involved in several
82 community outreach projects and civic organizations throughout the
83 State of Mississippi, including the National Cancer Society,
84 Stewpot Kitchen, Bethlehem Center, Flowers House, Sims House,
85 Ronald McDonald House, and several local long-term nursing
86 facilities. He was President of the Liberal Trinity Development
87 Foundation, Inc.; a lifetime member of the Oak Park Alumni
88 Association; a member of the Ministerial Alliance of Jackson; the
89 Board of Directors of Saints Academy in Lexington, Mississippi;
90 and the Jackson State University Ministerial Group. In his honor,
91 Bishop Musgrove was recognized by the City of Jackson in the
92 renaming of Northside Drive from Watkins Drive to State Street as
93 Bishop Hollis Musgrove Boulevard. He has also been designated as



94 "Man of the Year" and "Bishop of the Year" by the Church of God in
95 Christ, and "Man of the Year" by the City of Jackson, Mississippi;
96 and

97 WHEREAS, during his pastoral tenure, Bishop Musgrove founded
98 the Vossburg Church of God in Christ, Vossburg, Mississippi; built
99 the St. Mary Church of God in Christ (Laurel #3), Laurel,
100 Mississippi; renovated the Lightsey Church of God in Christ,
101 Lightsey, Mississippi; served St. Mary Church of God in Christ,
102 Pascagoula, Mississippi; served Decatur Church of God in Christ,
103 Decatur, Mississippi; served Laurel #1 Church of God in Christ,
104 Laurel, Mississippi; served Gravel Line Church of God in Christ,
105 Hattiesburg, Mississippi; and served Belt Temple Church of God in
106 Christ, Hattiesburg, Mississippi; and

107 WHEREAS, in 1975, Bishop Musgrove became Pastor of Liberal
108 Trinity Church of God in Christ in Jackson, Mississippi. At
109 Liberal Trinity, he accomplished the following: built a beautiful
110 edifice (the Blue Palace) with a wooden floor and a fellowship
111 hall; paid off the church mortgage eight years early; developed
112 the Liberal Trinity Development Foundation, Inc., with cash and
113 investment assets valued over \$250,000.00; purchased land and
114 buildings surrounding the church valued over \$500,000.00;
115 renovated several homes surrounding the church for the elderly
116 citizens; acquired the church's first "for-profit" entrepreneurial
117 enterprise, Northside Wash and Dry; expanded and established
118 numerous church auxiliaries and units; purchased modern technology



119 and sound equipment; acquired two church vans for the elderly and
120 handicapped; resurfaced the parking lot; enhanced the financial
121 management status of the church; established the Food Pantry
122 Network to feed needy families; and created a Counseling Program
123 which offers free counseling to help individuals and families; and

124 WHEREAS, currently, plans are in development for a Senior
125 Citizens Complex, a modern facility that will provide love and
126 care for elderly citizens in their golden years with a wholesome
127 and spiritual environment; and

128 WHEREAS, Bishop Hollis Musgrove married his high school
129 sweetheart, the former Bernice Wallace, in June 1949. Their
130 marital union of over 69 years was blessed with three children:
131 Deborah Dianne Yancy, Jackson, Mississippi; Hollis La-Voice
132 Musgrove, Laurel, Mississippi; and Faye Paulette Musgrove, Mobile,
133 Alabama. He is also survived by six grandchildren: Stephanie K.
134 Wingo, Hollie V. McDavid, Antonio Musgrove, Mario Musgrove, Asten
135 Musgrove and Endia N. O'Cain; four great-grandchildren; one
136 surviving aunt, Charlene Musgrove; a special cousin, Lola
137 Ducksworth; and his caregiver Matthew A. Donaldson. Along with
138 his immediate family mentioned above, the life and legacy of
139 Bishop Musgrove will be cherished by a host of extended family and
140 friends, including Missionary Gail Grass Fulgham, Elder Tony
141 Bounds, Michael (Mitchell) Gordon, Pastor Jerry Crisler and the
142 Weems children: Victoria, Larry and Cameron; the Liberal Trinity
143 Church and Mississippi Southern First Jurisdiction families, as



144 well as the brethren of the Church of God in Christ. An advocate
145 for the less fortunate among us, Bishop Musgrove was an example to
146 others of how to live your convictions with courage and he will be
147 missed:

148 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
149 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby extend the condolences of the
150 Mississippi Senate to the bereaved family of Bishop Hollis
151 Musgrove Prelate Emeritus.

152 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
153 the surviving family of Bishop Musgrove, forwarded to the Church
154 of God in Christ and Bishop Theo Davis, and made available to the
155 Capitol Press Corps.

