

By: Representative Scott

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE,
2 LEGACY AND SERVICE OF MRS. BERTHA REE MCDONALD HILL AND EXPRESSING
3 DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HER PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, "To everything there is a season, and a time to
5 every purpose under the Heaven," and as such, the grand architect
6 of the universe, the immaculate author and finisher of our soul's
7 destiny, has summoned the mortal presence of dearly beloved, Mrs.
8 Bertha Ree McDonald Hill, to eternal rest, as she has made life's
9 final transition from earthly travailing to heavenly reward,
10 rendering great sorrow and loss to her family and friends; and

11 WHEREAS, the State of Illinois, particularly the Chicago
12 community, lost a wonderful friend, educator extraordinaire and
13 community pillar on Wednesday, July 25, 2018, with the passing of
14 Mrs. Hill, a devoted and resolute servant of God and her
15 fellowman, who possessed an unmitigated affinity for educating and
16 inspiring youth and families to maximize their fullest potential
17 through her selfless approach of paying it forward in both her
18 professional and spiritual capacities of life; and



19 WHEREAS, born in Heidelberg, Mississippi, on November 26,
20 1942, to her late parents, Mrs. Geraldine Barnett Davis and Mr.
21 Amos McDonald, Mrs. Hill's mother sought a better quality of life
22 for her daughter, and entrusted her upbringing to her brother and
23 his wife, Esker and Lucille Barnett, who relocated Bertha to Erie,
24 Pennsylvania, where she completed her preliminary and secondary
25 education at Saint Benedict's Catholic Academy; and

26 WHEREAS, it was during the summers spent in Mississippi with
27 her grandmother, the late Mrs. Irene Goins Barnett, that Bertha
28 Ree would learn the fundamental essentials of hard work, respect
29 and worship, and it would also be the place where, as a young and
30 impressionable child, she would come to know Christ as her Lord
31 and personal Savior, after uniting in Christian fellowship with
32 First Baptist Church of Heidelberg; and

33 WHEREAS, upon completing her education at Saint Benedict's,
34 Mrs. Hill matriculated at Tennessee State University, where she
35 attained her baccalaureate degree in business and subsequently
36 moved to Chicago under the tutelage of her aunt Frankie Mae and
37 uncle Ben Denham, to embark upon a career in the business arena,
38 before making the life-altering decision to return to school to
39 become a certified elementary school teacher by attaining her
40 master's in education from Governor's State University, a choice
41 that she soon discovered was the purpose destined for her life and
42 career; and



43 WHEREAS, one who relied heavily on the faith she came to
44 experience as a child in Heidelberg, Mrs. Hill financially
45 supported and attended her late mother's home church, St. Elmo
46 Baptist Church in Laurel, Mississippi, whenever she visited
47 Mississippi, however in her quest to find a church to call home in
48 Chicago, Bertha was compelled by the Holy Spirit to join Shiloah
49 Missionary Baptist Church in May 1990, and remained devout in her
50 Christian service and patronage throughout 28 years, reflecting
51 her passion for God through her commitment to assisting others and
52 her Christ-like care and concern for the building of the kingdom,
53 an allegiance to which she continued to manifest through the
54 adaptation of her favorite passage of scripture in Psalms 34:8, "O
55 taste and see that the Lord is Good: blessed is the man that
56 trusts in Him."; and

57 WHEREAS, as fate would lend itself to building upon the
58 blueprint divinely designed for the pattern of her life by the
59 God-head of the Great Deity, Bertha's heart was pierced by the
60 love, chivalry and affection of Mr. Henry Roscoe Hill, and the duo
61 became bone of one another's bone and flesh of one another's flesh
62 after exchanging the nuptials of holy matrimony on July 2, 1970,
63 building a lifetime of memories and imparting the love shared for
64 one another into the lineal fabric of their son, Brent, and
65 grandchildren, Nico and Amache; and

66 WHEREAS, an advocate for education, a cause she championed
67 until the very end of her earthly tenure, Mrs. Hill's career in



68 education spanned the course of more than three decades with the
69 Chicago Public School System, wherein she challenged herself and
70 her students to excel in every educational pursuit undertaken,
71 before retiring from her labor of love at Smith Elementary School;
72 and

73 WHEREAS, in Mrs. Hill's transfiguration from mortality to
74 immortality, she now adorns the raiment of a spiritual bride,
75 awaiting the bridegroom's return in holy anticipation of that
76 wondrous event, as it is written in the book of Revelation 21:1-2
77 - "And I saw a new Heaven and a new earth: for the first Heaven
78 and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.
79 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God
80 out of Heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband."; and

81 WHEREAS, though she has traversed the river of life to
82 reunite with those who answered God's summons to life eternal and
83 now beckon her arrival to the celestial shores of Heaven's
84 grandeur, the legacy of Mrs. Hill's memory, which if put to music,
85 would be a majestic symphonic masterpiece composed by the Holy
86 Trinity, will continue to refresh the hearts and fond memories of
87 her beloved survivors, including: a devoted husband of 48 years,
88 Henry Roscoe Hill; son, Brent Hill; grandchildren, Nico and Amache
89 Hill; siblings, James H. Heidelberg, Dr. M. Deborrah Hyde, George
90 Harold (Denise) Huff, State Representative Omeria McDonald Scott
91 and Hilliard (Anita) McDonald; Charles (Mary) Hughes, who was like



92 a brother; brother-in-law, Ron (Renee) Hill; and a host of other
93 family members and friends; and

94 WHEREAS, we encourage the family to find solace from the
95 overwhelming sadness created by the earthly departure of their
96 beloved family member in Revelation 21:4, wherein is recorded,
97 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there
98 shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall
99 there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away,"
100 and renewed in their faith that Mrs. Hill fulfilled the
101 commandment of II Timothy 4:7, by having fought a good fight,
102 finishing her course and keeping the faith until the hour of her
103 departure was at hand; and

104 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
105 commend the life of such a remarkable, genuine and selfless
106 individual as Mrs. Hill, whose life light was a brilliantly
107 impassioned beacon of hope for all she encountered along this
108 earthly sojourn:

109 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
110 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
111 mourn the loss and commemorate the life and legacy of Mrs. Bertha
112 Ree McDonald Hill, whose life was a fragrant rose adorning the
113 Heavenly Father's botanical garden of this earth's mortal dressing
114 room, permeating the atmosphere with her beauty and aroma, and to
115 whose family we express sincere and deepest sympathy upon her
116 passing.



117 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
118 furnished to the family of Mrs. Bertha Ree McDonald Hill and to
119 the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

