

By: Representatives Cockerham,
Hughes

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 5

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND
2 LEGACY OF MR. THOMAS C. TOLLIVER JR. AND EXPRESSING SINCERE AND
3 DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, it is written in II Corinthians 4:17-18, "For our
5 light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far
6 more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at
7 the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen:
8 for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which
9 are not seen are eternal," and as such, the immaculate author and
10 finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal presence of
11 dearly beloved, Mr. Thomas C. Tolliver Jr. to rest eternally, as
12 he has made life's final transition from earthly travailing to
13 heavenly reward, rendering great sorrow and loss to his family and
14 friends; and

15 WHEREAS, the people of Wilkinson County and the entire
16 citizenry of Mississippi lost a revered mentor, remarkable friend
17 and pillar of the community with the passing of Mr. Tolliver,
18 whose main life goal was to help people in any way that he could,



19 and the lasting impact he made on countless lives he touched will
20 forever be cherished in the hearts and memories of all who knew
21 him and experienced his greatness; and

22 WHEREAS, after graduating from the Wilkinson County Training
23 School in 1968, Mr. Tolliver furthered his education at Jackson
24 State University, where he graduated in 1972 with majors in
25 biology and pre-med, completed his M.P.A. in public administration
26 from Southern University A & M College, and finished the necessary
27 coursework to become a candidate for the Ph.D. from Walden
28 University College; and

29 WHEREAS, Mr. Tolliver began his illustrious teaching career
30 at his alma mater, Wilkinson County Training School/Wilkinson
31 County High School, where his career as an educator was nothing
32 short of heroic, as the goodwill and inspiration he provided to
33 his students undoubtedly had a profound effect on their future
34 success; and

35 WHEREAS, during his tenure as a teacher, Mr. Tolliver was
36 instrumental in organizing numerous student organizations,
37 published the first school yearbook in several years, and involved
38 himself in various other student activities all while encouraging,
39 leading, and providing a positive role model to help his students
40 learn and excel; and

41 WHEREAS, his teaching career traversed a variety of subjects,
42 including physical science, biology, chemistry and adult
43 education, but at each and every step along his way, he encouraged



44 his students to study the fundamentals, inspired them to believe
45 in themselves as he so strongly believed in them, and helped them
46 reach their fullest potential and achieve their dreams; and

47 WHEREAS, in addition to his role as educator extraordinaire,
48 Mr. Tolliver had a remarkable tenure as a public servant, as he
49 was elected as the Wilkinson County Chancery Clerk in 1979, served
50 on the Wilkinson County Industrial Board, and served as the
51 Wilkinson County EOC Director, where he spent numerous hours
52 securing shelter and assistance during Hurricanes Katrina and
53 Gustav; and

54 WHEREAS, Mr. Tolliver's community involvement in various
55 organizations, his volunteerism and his selfless neighborly spirit
56 was surpassed by none, as he even organized a community softball
57 league for youth and adults and allowed his property to serve as
58 the ball field; and

59 WHEREAS, additionally, Mr. Tolliver was very involved with
60 his college alma mater, Jackson State University, where he was a
61 lifetime member of the alumni association and a member of the JSU
62 Blue Bengal Athletic Association, and he was a founder and member
63 of the Rho Epsilon Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity,
64 Inc., and was recently inducted into the Mississippi Alpha Network
65 Hall of Fame; and

66 WHEREAS, Mr. Tolliver was also very involved in his church,
67 Oakhill First Zion Baptist Church, where he served as a Sunday
68 School teacher, choir director and deacon, and now he enjoys the



69 eternal peace described in Luke 2:29, "Lord, now you are letting
70 your servant depart in peace, according to your word"; and

71 WHEREAS, the Mt. Ararat Consistory of 32nd and 33rd degree
72 masons received the benefit of Mr. Tolliver's dedication, as he
73 served as Commander in Chief, and he was a life member of Ft.
74 Adams Masonic Lodge #622, serving as Master for several years
75 during which time a new masonic hall was constructed; and

76 WHEREAS, he was also a founding member and president of the
77 Chatwell Foundation, Inc., and a member of the Mississippi
78 Chancery Clerk's Association, the Association of Clerks, Recorders
79 and Election Officials, the Mississippi Civil Defense Emergency
80 Managers Association, the NAACP, OES, Shriner, HOJ and ELK; and

81 WHEREAS, while Mr. Tolliver donned many hats, volunteered for
82 several organizations and served his community in a multitude of
83 ways, his greatest role was that of loving husband to his wife,
84 Myrtis McFarland Tolliver, and doting father and grandfather to
85 his three children and three grandchildren; and

86 WHEREAS, though he has traversed the river of life to reunite
87 with those who answered God's summons to life eternal and now
88 beckon his arrival to the celestial shores of Heaven's grandeur,
89 the legacy of Mr. Tolliver's indelible imprint upon our lives will
90 continue to refresh the hearts and fond memories of his beloved
91 survivors: wife, Myrtis; two daughters; one son; two grandsons;
92 one granddaughter; and a host of other relatives and friends; and



93 WHEREAS, we encourage the family to find solace from the
94 overwhelming sadness created by the earthly departure of their
95 beloved family member and be renewed in their faith that Mr.
96 Tolliver fulfilled the purpose of his appointed time in adherence
97 to the commandment of II Timothy 4:7, by having "fought a good
98 fight, finishing his course and keeping the faith until the hour
99 of his departure was at hand"; and

100 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
101 commend the life and service of such a genuine and selfless
102 individual as Mr. Thomas C. Tolliver Jr. whose life of benevolence
103 honored his family, his beloved Wilkinson County and this great
104 state by illuminating the path of hope for all he encountered
105 along this earthly sojourn:

106 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
107 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
108 mourn the loss and commemorate the life and legacy of Mr. Thomas
109 C. Tolliver Jr. and express sincere and deepest sympathy to his
110 family and friends upon his passing.

111 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
112 furnished to Mr. Tolliver's wife, three children, three
113 grandchildren and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

