

By: Representatives Baria, Williams-Barnes,  
Anderson, Busby, Wilson

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 16

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE LIFE  
2 AND LEGACY OF MR. CALVIN HUEY, THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN TO PLAY  
3 FOOTBALL FOR THE NAVAL ACADEMY.

4 WHEREAS, Pascagoula native Calvin Huey, who was known for his  
5 large hands and warm heart, became the first African American to  
6 play football for the Navy, and though he passed away in September  
7 2018 at the age of 75, his legacy of sportsmanship and  
8 determination will never fade; and

9 WHEREAS, on November 28, 1964, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,  
10 a tall, strapping, African-American man from Mississippi, wearing  
11 jersey number 49, walked onto the field as a Midshipmen, outfitted  
12 in the navy blue and gold, and caught passes from the legendary  
13 Roger Staubach, becoming the first African American to participate  
14 in one of America's most classic sports rivalries; and

15 WHEREAS, before that historic game in 1964, Calvin was the  
16 starting quarterback for the football team at Carver High School  
17 in Pascagoula, but he was more than just a tremendous athlete, as  
18 his intellect rivaled his athletic prowess, and he excelled in



19 math and science and was named the valedictorian for the Carver  
20 High School Class of 1961, as well as the captain of the football  
21 and basketball teams; and

22 WHEREAS, after graduation, Calvin went to California City  
23 College in Oakland, a two-year school that again saw him surpass  
24 all expectations in the classroom and on the football field,  
25 impressing those around him with his physical and mental  
26 abilities, and through a Mississippi Congressman, he applied for  
27 an appointment to the Naval Academy; and

28 WHEREAS, unfortunately, he was refused and that same year,  
29 1962, 30,000 troops were needed to enroll James Meredith in  
30 classes at the University of Mississippi, but Calvin did not let  
31 the rejection stop his determination and sought an appointment  
32 from a California Congressman, Jeffery Cohelan, who gladly took on  
33 the role and fought for Calvin to attend the Naval Academy, and  
34 this time, the appointment, which had nothing to do with his  
35 accolades between the goalposts, was successful; and

36 WHEREAS, in the summer of 1964, Calvin and 300 of his fellow  
37 plebes tried out for the Navy football team, but when Calvin  
38 realized that 14 of the 300 were trying out for the quarterback  
39 position that was already occupied by the great Staubach, he  
40 concluded that he would have a better shot of playing if he tried  
41 out for another position, so at six feet and two inches, 185  
42 pounds and blessed with enormous hands, he became a natural at the  
43 wide receiver position; and



44           WHEREAS, Calvin had quite an impact on the Naval Academy's  
45 athletic department, as he caught passes no other receiver could  
46 catch and also made a great basketball player, and those who knew  
47 him during that time described him as a truly gifted athlete, a  
48 quiet leader who always wore a smile, a hard worker with a great  
49 personality and a brilliant academic, and while Calvin returned  
50 the adoration of his beloved Naval Academy, he never boasted about  
51 his numerous accomplishments but would simply smile if others  
52 brought them up; and

53           WHEREAS, Calvin served two tours of duty in Vietnam after his  
54 graduation from the Naval Academy, one as a gun operator and one  
55 in Naval intelligence, and he later earned his Ph.D. in chemistry  
56 from the University of Maryland before returning to the Naval  
57 Academy as a chemistry professor and assistant football coach; and

58           WHEREAS, in 2015, Pascagoula instituted a sports hall of  
59 fame, and Calvin Huey was not only in the inaugural class but was  
60 also chosen by his fellow inductees to give an acceptance speech  
61 for the group; and

62           WHEREAS, throughout his life, Calvin received unwavering  
63 support from his wife, Deborah Huey, who described her husband as  
64 a beautiful human being with the heart of a champion who floated  
65 through life with grace and courage; and

66           WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize  
67 and commend the lives of remarkable Mississippians, and no one  
68 fits that description better than Calvin Huey, a man who led with



69 his heart and has brought copious amounts of honor and pride to  
70 his family, the City of Pascagoula and the State of Mississippi:

71       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
72 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
73 THEREIN, That we do hereby recognize and commend the life and  
74 legacy of Mr. Calvin Huey, the first African American to play  
75 football for the Naval Academy and express deepest sympathy to his  
76 family and friends upon his passing.

77       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
78 furnished to the family of Calvin Huey and to the members of the  
79 Capitol Press Corps.

