

By: Representative Anderson

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 17

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MR. WILLIE JAMES
2 "DADDY WILLIE" SMITH ON CELEBRATING THE MOST AUSPICIOUS OCCASION
3 OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH ON JANUARY 30, 2019.

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Willie James "Daddy Willie" Smith, born on
5 January 30, 1919, to the late Mr. Enoch and Mrs. Rosie Lee
6 Averhart Smith in Fort Deposit, Alabama, and the grandson of
7 escaped slave and Union Army soldier, Jacob Smith, celebrates the
8 100th anniversary of his birth on January 30, 2019, to be
9 commemorated with a celebration acknowledging and honoring his
10 fatherhood, mentorship and service on Saturday, January 26, 2019;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, an individual of wise counsel among countless
13 individuals to bear the title as a father, son, brother, uncle and
14 friend, Mr. Smith, or "Daddy Willie," as he is affectionately
15 referred to by his family, grew up in the Skip Street Community of
16 Pascagoula after his father gathered his family and escaped the
17 harrowing and brutal prejudice and civil injustice in South
18 Alabama amid the mass exodus following the Great Depression of



19 1929, and raised them on the core tenets of respect and hard work,
20 values that continue to be the benchmark of excellence for the
21 Smith family, rooted in integrity and fortitude; and

22 WHEREAS, as the oldest of his parents' children, Daddy Willie
23 assumed many of the paternal responsibilities for the Smith family
24 when he was just a young man, and his Solomonesque wisdom and
25 understanding, Mr. Smith answered the call of duty to patriot arms
26 by enlisting in the great fraternity of the United States Army at
27 the height of World War II, after the Imperial Japanese Navy Air
28 Service's attack on Pearl Harbor; and

29 WHEREAS, as fate would lend itself for the blueprint divinely
30 designed for his life, Daddy Willie's chivalry and affection
31 pierced the heart of Dorothy Smith, and the two were united in the
32 sacred bond of holy matrimony, and their marital union was made
33 complete with the fruitful addition of five children: Deborah,
34 Willie James Jr., Vernon, Vernita and Terry, with whom they
35 embedded their core beliefs of honesty and service into their
36 lineal fabric, until God saw fit to send his chariot angels to
37 escort Mrs. Dorothy to her heavenly home; and

38 WHEREAS, as a resident and esteemed citizen and community
39 pillar of Molden Avenue and throughout Moss Point, Daddy Willie
40 has experienced the transformational changes of American society
41 and experienced various moments of iconic history, as he continues
42 to rely wholeheartedly on God as the driving force to sustain and
43 motivate him through the circumstances, trials and triumphs of



44 life, and to keep him healthy to bake his famous sweet potato
45 pies; and

46 WHEREAS, with his profound faith and the unyielding support
47 of his family, Daddy Willie has led an exemplary life, exuding the
48 love of Christ through his service as a loyal member of First
49 Christian Church in Moss Point, Mississippi, where he continues
50 his faithful service as a deacon; and

51 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith, who provided for his family as a
52 tenacious and driven worker at Ingalls Shipyard for numerous years
53 until his retirement, continues to remain actively engaged with
54 his family and friends, through his daily walks, cooking and the
55 affairs of the church; and

56 WHEREAS, as the sole surviving offspring of his parents'
57 direct progeny, Daddy Willie, in addition to enjoying the love,
58 affection and attention from his five children, he is also
59 showered with those same gifts from his six grandchildren:
60 Jessica, Curtis, Karina, Vernon, Cornelius and Zykeria; five
61 great-grandchildren: Symone, Zaria, Judea, Ja'Kyle and Bray'Den;
62 and four great-great-grandchildren: Choncie, Cairo, Za'naya and
63 Wynter; and

64 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
65 commend the life of such an outstanding individual as Mr. Smith,
66 who attributes his longevity to good, clean, moral living and his
67 faith in God, as he celebrates this most auspicious occasion with
68 his family and friends:



69 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
70 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
71 commend the life of Mr. Willie James "Daddy Willie" Smith, in
72 commemoration of the 100th anniversary of his birth on January 30,
73 2019, and express sincere wishes for continued health, joy, peace
74 and prosperity for years to come.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
76 furnished to Mr. Willie James "Daddy Willie" Smith and to the
77 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

