

By: Representatives Holloway, Weathersby,
Currie

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 41

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE,
2 LEGACY AND SERVICE OF MR. BEN RICHARD BURNEY.

3 WHEREAS, it is written in Ecclesiastes 3:1 that "To
4 everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under
5 the Heaven," and as such, on January 1, 2019, the grand architect
6 of the universe summoned the mortal presence of dearly beloved,
7 Mr. Ben Richard Burney, to eternal rest, rendering great sorrow
8 and loss to his family and friends; and

9 WHEREAS, the City of Crystal Springs and the entire State of
10 Mississippi lost a wonderful friend and revered World War II
11 veteran with the passing of Mr. Burney, who was born on July 30,
12 1926, to Ben I. and Velma McCoy Burney; and

13 WHEREAS, after graduating from Crystal Springs High School
14 and consumed with an altruistic desire to defend and serve Lady
15 Liberty, Ben, fresh out of high school, joined an elite fraternity
16 of heroic seamen in the United States Navy, and during his era in
17 the military aboard the U.S.S. Soubarissen, through grit and



18 unparalleled exertion, he patriotically fought to ensure that
19 America remained "The Beautiful"; and

20 WHEREAS, upon his honorable return home, Mr. Burney attended
21 Copiah-Lincoln Junior College and ultimately graduated with his
22 degree in accounting from the University of Mississippi; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Burney's fate would lend itself to being built
24 in accordance with the blueprint divinely designed for the pattern
25 of his life by the great deity and grand architect of our lives'
26 destiny, when his love, chivalry and affection pierced the heart
27 of the former Miss Catherine Wilson, and the duo became bone of
28 one another's bone and flesh of one another's flesh after
29 exchanging the nuptials of holy matrimony, building a lifetime of
30 memories with the addition of three daughters; and

31 WHEREAS, one who never met a stranger, Mr. Burney was the
32 unifying tie that bound his family together, as he sought to
33 always be their provider which led to his role in a number of
34 successful enterprises, including working alongside his father to
35 establish Burney Water Well Service to provide water wells and
36 community water lines for rural residents in Crystal Springs, for
37 Kuhlman Electric and Royal Maid, and he retired in 1987 from
38 Mississippi Industries for the Blind as the Vice President of
39 National Sales; and

40 WHEREAS, upon his retirement, Mr. Burney remained very active
41 in his community as a member of the Lions Club, the Lake Copiah
42 Board of Directors and the Cattlemen's Association, and he also



43 utilized his accounting degree as the financial officer of his
44 church; and

45 WHEREAS, additionally, Mr. Burney helped to found the U.S.S.
46 Soubarissen Ship Reunions, as uniting World War II Navy veterans
47 for reunions was one of his passions, and he even taught his
48 grandsons how to navigate his sailboat in the Gulf of Mexico; and

49 WHEREAS, Ben Richard Burney's bright sense of humor,
50 remarkable intelligence and pure heart left an indelible
51 impression in the hearts and minds of his many friends and family,
52 who are left to cherish his memory, including: his daughters,
53 Janice Burney Arrington and Virginia Burney Price; grandchildren,
54 Jamie Myers, Erica DeRouen, Isaac Price, Thomas Price, Lee Berry
55 and Ben Berry; great-grandchildren, Josh, Kaylin, Greyson, Jon,
56 Chelsea, Katie, Jayme, Andrew, Hunter, Carson, Charlie, Avery and
57 Tillie; great-great-grandson, Peter; and a host of other relatives
58 and friends; and

59 WHEREAS, we encourage the family to find solace from the
60 overwhelming sadness created by the earthly departure of their
61 beloved family member and be renewed in their faith that Mr.
62 Burney fulfilled the purpose of his appointed time in adherence to
63 the commandment of II Timothy 4:7, by having "fought a good fight,
64 finishing his course and keeping the faith until the hour of his
65 departure was at hand"; and

66 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
67 commend the life and service of such a genuine and selfless



68 individual as Mr. Ben Richard Burney, whose light illuminated the
69 path of hope for all he encountered along this earthly sojourn:

70 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
71 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
72 mourn the loss and commemorate the life, legacy and service of Mr.
73 Ben Richard Burney and express sincere and deepest sympathy upon
74 his passing.

75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
76 furnished to the family of Mr. Ben Richard Burney and to the
77 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

