

By: Representatives Anderson, Barton, Busby To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 82

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE,
2 LEGACY AND SERVICE OF MR. IRA S. POLK, JR., AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST
3 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. Ira S. Polk, Jr., to rest eternally, as he has
12 made life's final transition from earthly travailing to heavenly
13 reward, rendering great sorrow and loss to his family and friends;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, the community of Moss Point, Mississippi, lost a
16 wonderful friend with the passing of community pillar and former
17 mayor, Mr. Polk, on Monday, March 4, 2019, and there is now a hush
18 in our hearts as we come together to pay our respects to the



19 memory of one who has been called to join that innumerable
20 heavenly caravan; and

21 WHEREAS, Mr. Polk, a lifelong resident of Moss Point and
22 graduate of Magnolia High School, was grounded in the success of
23 education, matriculating to postsecondary degree completion at
24 Tougaloo College, Howard University Medical School of Allied
25 Health and Auburn University's certified teacher program; and

26 WHEREAS, from his humble beginnings, Mr. Polk was instilled
27 with the principles of service and how to champion the cause of
28 equality, justice and right, which served as the impetus of his
29 decision to devote his life in the service of his fellowman, which
30 took on the form of his answering the call to patriot arms when he
31 served in the United States Army Corps as a surgical technician,
32 as well as being a drum major for civil rights to erase the blight
33 of racial injustice in Moss Point; and

34 WHEREAS, after the completion of his military service, Mr.
35 Polk returned to Moss Point, and cognizant of the words recorded
36 in II Thessalonians 3:10 "that if any would not work, neither
37 should he eat," he undertook several jobs throughout the course of
38 his life in Jackson County, where he served as a science teacher
39 and football, basketball and track coach at Moss Point High, and
40 devoted 24 years as a coating chemist at Ingalls Shipbuilding and
41 at various medical offices; and

42 WHEREAS, devoted to the betterment of the community, Mr.
43 Polk, who served on the Singing River Hospital Board of Trustees



44 and the Moss Point School Board, was elected to the office of
45 Mayor of Moss Point in 1993, a role in which he used his
46 influential rapport with both citizens and businesses alike to
47 advance the greater good of the city, which resulted in: the
48 construction of the Pelican Landing Convention Center; the naming
49 of the Highway 63 bridge in honor of Vietnam War veterans, as the
50 Vietnam Memorial Bridge; the institution of the annual Fall de Rah
51 Festival; the passage of local and private legislation by the
52 Mississippi Legislature that would generate additional revenue for
53 the city through a three percent hotel tax, for each bed rented in
54 hotels located in the city; and

55 WHEREAS, other notable stars on his crown of service give nod
56 to his unmatched leadership and indomitable commitment to social
57 obligation and civic duties, as indicated by his memberships and
58 affiliations with such organizations as: Omega Psi Phi
59 Fraternity, Inc.; Magnolia Elks Lodge #1354; NAACP; SCLC; Magnolia
60 High School Alumni Association; and the Jackson County Democratic
61 Executive Committee, for which he served as vice chairman; and

62 WHEREAS, in his transfiguration from mortality to
63 immortality, Mr. Polk now adorns the spiritual raiment, awaiting
64 the bridegroom's return in holy anticipation of that wondrous
65 event recorded in Revelation 21:1-2 "And I saw a new Heaven and a
66 new earth: for the first Heaven and the first earth were passed
67 away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new



68 Jerusalem, coming down from God out of Heaven, prepared as a bride
69 adorned for her husband"; and

70 WHEREAS, though he has traversed the river of life to now
71 stand upon the celestial shores of Heaven's grandeur, the legacy
72 of Mr. Polk's indelible imprint will continue to refresh the
73 hearts and fond memories of his beloved survivors: his wife,
74 Bessie Polk; children and grandchildren; and a host of other
75 relatives and friends; and

76 WHEREAS, we encourage the family to find solace from the
77 overwhelming sadness created by the earthly departure of their
78 beloved family member and be renewed in their faith that Mr. Polk
79 fulfilled the purpose of his appointed time in adherence to the
80 commandment of II Timothy 4:7, by having "fought a good fight,
81 finishing his course and keeping the faith until the hour of his
82 departure was at hand"; and

83 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
84 commend the life of a genuine and selfless individual such as Mr.
85 Polk, whose life light illuminated the path of hope for all he
86 encountered along this earthly sojourn:

87 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
88 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
89 mourn the loss and commemorate the life and legacy of Mr. Ira S.
90 Polk, Jr., to whose family we express sincere and deepest sympathy
91 upon his passing.



92 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
93 furnished to the family of Mr. Ira S. Polk, Jr., and to the
94 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

