

By: The Entire Membership

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 93

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMENDING THE LIFE AND
2 LEGACY OF ESTEEMED ATTORNEY AND DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVANT, THE
3 HONORABLE FELIX EDWIN "ED" PERRY, AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY
4 TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

5 WHEREAS, it is written in II Corinthians 4:17-18, "For our
6 light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far
7 more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at
8 the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen:
9 for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which
10 are not seen are eternal," and as such, the immaculate author and
11 finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal presence of
12 dearly beloved former State Representative, the Honorable Felix
13 Edwin "Ed" Perry, to rest eternally, on Tuesday, January 15, 2019,
14 as he has made life's final transition from earthly travailing to
15 heavenly reward, rendering great sorrow and loss to his family and
16 friends; and

17 WHEREAS, the Oxford Community and the entirety of the State
18 of Mississippi lost a wonderful friend and statesman with the
19 passing of Mr. Perry, born in San Diego, California, to the late



20 Felix Everett Perry and Minnie Heald Koelsnick, and raised in
21 Oxford, Mississippi, the north Mississippi college community that
22 would be his forever home, and the citizens of whom he would serve
23 as a shrewd barrister of the law and a public servant as an
24 elected member of the Mississippi House of Representatives for 32
25 years, and there is now a hush in our hearts as we come together
26 to pay our respects to the memory of one who has been called to
27 join that innumerable heavenly caravan; and

28 WHEREAS, a graduate of University High School in Oxford, Mr.
29 Perry received a bachelor's degree from the University of
30 Mississippi in 1964 and his law degree from the University of
31 Mississippi School of Law in 1967, and within a few months of
32 receiving his law degree, he began his legislative campaign for
33 House District 12 in Lafayette County, taking office in January
34 1968, after a successful bid; and

35 WHEREAS, throughout his long and distinguished legislative
36 career, Ed held numerous positions of leadership, including having
37 served as Chairman of the House Appropriations, Constitution,
38 Judiciary "A," Judiciary En Banc and Municipalities Committees,
39 and as a long-time member of the Joint Legislative Budget
40 Committee; and

41 WHEREAS, Mr. Perry also has served as a member of numerous
42 special committees, including: a joint legislative study
43 committee on capitated managed care for Medicaid recipients; the
44 Joint Committee on Compilation, Revision and Publication of State



45 Legislation; a special committee to evaluate the medical
46 malpractice insurance program in the state; and study committees
47 on governmental reorganization, improving the state's educational
48 system and the need for an intermediate appeals court; and

49 WHEREAS, one whose legislative pedigree is as legendary as
50 his powerful oratorical skills, as noted in his recitation of
51 Judge N.S. "Soggy" Sweat's famous "Whiskey Speech," Mr. Perry,
52 perhaps better than most, understood the immense power that came
53 from chairing the House Appropriations Committee, and he used that
54 power to benefit public education at all levels, specifically for
55 the whole of the state's higher education system by inviting the
56 presidents of the eight public universities to testify before the
57 committee and afford them a fair hearing to specify their
58 legislative wish lists; and

59 WHEREAS, his diminutive physical stature invited the nickname
60 "Stump," and he wore it well, actually turning it to his
61 advantage, and while in his prime, Ed's challenged height was
62 accentuated by a thick neck, short arms and a face reddened by
63 exertion or the passion with which he was delivering a speech on
64 the floor of the House, as his prowess as a speaker was unmatched
65 and neither his size nor the high pitch of his voice lessened his
66 impact; and

67 WHEREAS, once called the "icon of the Mississippi
68 Legislature," Mr. Perry's combination of tenure, skill, hard work,
69 speaking ability and good humor was unmatched among lawmakers,



70 which enabled him to be a leader who promoted law and order, as he
71 championed the 1996 legislation to authorize 32 new assistant
72 district attorneys around the state and to provide for additional
73 criminal investigators in four districts; and

74 WHEREAS, through his dedication, progressive leadership and
75 personal integrity, Mr. Perry earned the respect of his fellow
76 House members and his congenial nature conveyed a positive
77 influence on all who had the pleasure of working with him and
78 hearing him say in tense moments of the legislative process, "Now,
79 let's all be sweet"; and

80 WHEREAS, even in his retirement as a legislator, the profound
81 and lasting impact made in his 32 years of elected service and the
82 wisdom acquired in those years were not far removed from the
83 hallowed halls of the Mississippi State Capitol, where he was
84 elected by his former colleagues to serve as Clerk of the House
85 for the 2000-2004 term; and

86 WHEREAS, in addition to his public service as a state
87 legislator, Perry also represented the City of Oxford for 19 years
88 and the Lafayette County Board of Education for 12 years as board
89 attorney, and his storied career of public legal service was not
90 without the fanfare of honor, including: having been recognized
91 by the Mississippi Bar Association for 50 years of being an
92 attorney; honored by Ole Miss for his long-time service to the
93 State of Mississippi; the City of Oxford named a street after him,
94 the Ed Perry Boulevard; and his great friend, the renowned



95 Mississippi writer Willie Morris, once said that "Ed was sui
96 generis - a little of Tom Jefferson, Abe Lincoln and Mark Twain.
97 Suffused with intelligence and courage. To me, he vibrates with
98 the best of life"; and

99 WHEREAS, though he has traversed life's river to reunite in
100 glorious celebration with those loved ones who made life's
101 transition to eternity before him, including his parents and his
102 brother, David Perry, the legacy of Ed Perry's indelible imprint
103 upon our lives will continue to refresh the hearts and fond
104 memories of his beloved survivors: daughters, Melissa Dooley and
105 Martha Perry; longtime-friend and companion, Patricia Evans;
106 sister, Susan Moore; brother, Dr. Ronald Perry; two grandchildren,
107 Olivia Dooley and Landon Smith; former wife, Rosalyn Neilson
108 Perry; law partner and best friend, Glen Alderson; and a host of
109 other colleagues and friends; and

110 WHEREAS, we encourage the family of Mr. Perry to take solace
111 in these words recorded in II Corinthians 1:3-4 - "Blessed be the
112 God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and
113 God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that
114 we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with
115 the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God"; and

116 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
117 commend the life of a genuine and selfless individual as the
118 Honorable Felix Edwin "Ed" Perry, whose life's light illuminated
119 the path of hope, fairness and diplomacy for all he encountered



120 along his earthly sojourn, as evidenced in James 4:14 - "For what
121 is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little
122 time, and then vanisheth away":

123 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
124 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
125 mourn the loss, commemorate the life and legacy of the Honorable
126 Felix Edwin "Ed" Perry, to whose family and friends we express
127 sincere and deepest sympathy upon his passing.

128 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
129 furnished to the family of the Honorable Felix Edwin "Ed" Perry
130 and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

