

By: Representatives Sykes, Gibbs (72nd),  
Clarke, Calhoun, Crudup, Dixon

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 120

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND  
2 LEGACY OF MR. CHARLES EDWARD GRAHAM.

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 March 14, 2019, the grand architect  
6 of the universe summoned the mortal presence of dearly beloved,  
7 Mr. Charles Edward Graham, to eternal rest, rendering great sorrow  
8 and loss to his family, friends and community; and

9 WHEREAS, Hinds County and the entire citizenry of the State  
10 of Mississippi lost a wonderful friend and community leader with  
11 the passing of Mr. Graham, who became the tenth of eleven children  
12 born to the late Robert Graham, Sr., and the late Willie May  
13 Graham on May 25, 1955, in Jackson, Mississippi; and

14 WHEREAS, a member of the Lanier High School Class of 1973,  
15 Mr. Graham graduated from Jackson State University with his  
16 bachelor of science degree in accounting, and after graduation, he  
17 joined the Jackson Fire Department as a private; and



18           WHEREAS, after displaying extraordinary dedication to  
19 promoting and upholding the principles of public safety, Mr.  
20 Graham was promoted to Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Chief in charge  
21 of training, Fire Department Public Information Officer, and  
22 finally Deputy Chief, and throughout his career, he faced  
23 dangerous situations each day that demanded he put his life on the  
24 line, but each time the call came, he fearlessly and bravely  
25 rushed into perilous predicaments and responded to a variety of  
26 emergency events and catastrophes; and

27           WHEREAS, in recognition of his exceptional character and  
28 phenomenal leadership, Mr. Graham, who graduated from the National  
29 Fire Academy and was an expert in HAZMAT, received numerous  
30 awards, certifications and trainings, and after his retirement, he  
31 became co-owner of Wings 911 Restaurant in South Jackson and  
32 managing partner in AA&E Properties, Inc.; and

33           WHEREAS, Mr. Graham's love, chivalry and affection pierced  
34 the heart of the former Miss Alline Washington, his high school  
35 sweetheart, and the duo became bone of one another's bone and  
36 flesh of one another's flesh after exchanging the nuptials of holy  
37 matrimony in 1978, building a lifetime of memories together with  
38 the addition of three children, Eric, Akami and Ariel; and

39           WHEREAS, in 1984, Mr. Graham, a faithful believer in God,  
40 joined Christ the King Catholic Church and served and worshipped  
41 the Lord in many capacities, including as a member of Knights of  
42 Peter Claver, as a volunteer for Catholic Charities, the American



43 Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity and Mentor for Junior Achievement,  
44 as a choir member, and as a part of Kings Workers and other  
45 committees, and he also assisted the church with many different  
46 maintenance and beautification tasks such as planting shrubbery,  
47 cutting grass, installing glass bulletin boards and painting; and

48 WHEREAS, one who never met a stranger, Mr. Graham was the  
49 unifying tie that bound his family together, as he sought to  
50 always be present in their times of need, whether cracking a joke  
51 to ease tension or singing his own versions of nursery rhymes to  
52 his youngest grandchildren, Anastasia and Ethan; and

53 WHEREAS, a loving and devoted husband to his late wife,  
54 Alline, who passed away on February 27, 2017, and a doting father  
55 to his children, Mr. Graham enjoyed whipping up delicious meals  
56 for his family and friends, travelling the world, both near and  
57 far, and occasionally trying his luck at the local casinos, and  
58 his infectious laugh, sense of humor, remarkable wisdom and  
59 unconditional love will be dearly missed by all those who had the  
60 opportunity to know him and experience his greatness; and

61 WHEREAS, the legacy of Mr. Charles Edward Graham left an  
62 indelible impression in the hearts and minds of his many friends  
63 and family, who are left to cherish his memory, including: his  
64 children, Eric (Shawn-Marie) Graham, Akami Graham and Ariel (Ryan)  
65 Chong; four grandchildren, DeAndra Graham, Erik Graham, Anastasia  
66 Chong and Ethan Chong; siblings, Robbie Hill (George), Annie Mae  
67 Kellum (Jim), Hubbard Graham (Sandra), Betty Graham, Albertha



68 McDavid (Dave), Lillian Morris (James-deceased), Robert Graham,  
69 Jr. (Shirley) and Authurine Graham-McNeil (Glenn); and a host of  
70 aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends; and

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

78 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
79 commend the life and legacy of such a genuine and selfless  
80 individual as Mr. Charles Edward Graham, whose life light  
81 illuminated the path of hope for all he encountered along this  
82 earthly sojourn:

83 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
84 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
85 mourn the loss and commemorate the life and legacy of Mr.  
86 Charles Edward Graham and express sincere and deepest sympathy to  
87 his family and friends upon his passing.

88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
89 furnished to the family of Mr. Charles Edward Graham and to the  
90 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

