

By: Representatives Roberson, Creekmore IV,  
Taylor

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 38

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE, LEGACY AND  
2 CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. ROBERT DANIEL "DAN" CAMP AND EXPRESSING  
3 SINCEREST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS  
4 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, Mr. Robert Daniel "Dan" Camp, who was blessed with  
13 a servant's heart to help his fellowman, to eternal rest on  
14 Sunday, October 25, 2020, at the age of 79, as he made life's  
15 final transition from earthly travailing to heavenly reward,  
16 rendering great sorrow and loss to his family and many friends  
17 throughout Central Mississippi and beyond; and

18 WHEREAS, the Starkville community lost an imaginative and  
19 transformative visionary, public servant and community pillar with



20 the passing of Mr. Camp, born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on April  
21 13, 1941, and raised in Tupelo, Mississippi, by his late parents,  
22 Mr. Dewey W. Camp, Sr., and Mrs. Opal Quay Webb Camp, and there is  
23 now a hush in our hearts as we come together to pay our respects  
24 to the memory of one who has been called to join that innumerable  
25 heavenly caravan; and

26 WHEREAS, entrenched with a keen awareness of the importance  
27 of receiving an education, Dan graduated from Tupelo High School  
28 in 1959, which tapped the wellspring of his intellectual curiosity  
29 and insatiable thirst for knowledge, which culminated in his  
30 earning a bachelor's degree in education from Mississippi State  
31 University in 1963, and spawned the successful pursuit and  
32 attainment of his master's degree in education from North Carolina  
33 State University in 1967; and

34 WHEREAS, having taught industrial education for a stint in  
35 Vicksburg, it would be the allure of Starkville that beckoned him  
36 back to the flourishing Golden Triangle to establish his roots and  
37 make a lasting impression upon the college town, an impression  
38 that would bring him much notice and acclaim well beyond what he  
39 ever imagined, initially as a member of the MSU faculty, and  
40 subsequently as an artistically clairvoyant developer; and

41 WHEREAS, even after his departure from the classroom to fan  
42 the flame of property development initially ignited during his  
43 years at North Carolina State University, to breathe life into  
44 forgotten property and bring a resurgence of vitality and



45 community, Mr. Camp remained deeply committed to public education  
46 as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Starkville School  
47 District, wherein such capacity, he was an ardent champion of the  
48 arts and supporter of the Starkville Arts Council; and

49 WHEREAS, in 1969, Mr. Camp began acquiring property in the  
50 Cotton District, creating an eclectic oasis of tightly packed  
51 houses and businesses, ushering in the New Urbanism movement in a  
52 practice now commonly referred to as mixed-use development, which  
53 captured the fascination and has been the inspiration for urban  
54 developers ever since; and

55 WHEREAS, now a pedestrian-friendly, architecturally varied  
56 neighborhood replete with cottages, duplexes, apartments,  
57 street-level shops, courtyards and fountains, the Cotton District,  
58 which was birthed with Mr. Camp's purchase of eight small  
59 townhouses, is now one of the most desirable addresses in  
60 Starkville; and

61 WHEREAS, it was in this new venture that Mr. Camp would  
62 thrive, and because of the growing success and mass appeal of the  
63 Cotton District, complete with its own arts festival, he would  
64 garner the title "Mayor of the Cotton District," a nomenclature  
65 that was forecasting to the official assignment of office he would  
66 later assume in 2005, upon being elected Mayor of Starkville,  
67 where he would bring his intellectual acumen and business  
68 expertise; and



69           WHEREAS, as fate would lend itself to being built in  
70 accordance with the blueprint divinely designed for the pattern of  
71 his life by the Great Deity and grand architect of our lives'  
72 destiny, Dan's love, chivalry and affection pierced the heart of  
73 the young belle who would assume his last name as Gemma T. Camp  
74 after exchanging the nuptials of holy matrimony in 1981, and  
75 embarked upon a 40-year journey together; and

76           WHEREAS, cognizant of the words recorded in I John 3:2, "Dear  
77 friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not  
78 yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we  
79 shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is," Mr. Camp strove  
80 diligently to exemplify his zealous commitment to the people of  
81 Starkville and causes dear to his heart; and

82           WHEREAS, though he has traversed life's river to now stand  
83 upon the celestial shores in wonderment of Heaven's grandeur in  
84 glorious reunion with the kindred spirits of his parents who  
85 transitioned before him, the memories of Mr. Camp will continue to  
86 flourish in the hearts and minds of his survivors: his devoted  
87 wife, Gemma T. Camp; sons, Robert A. (Emily) Camp and Frederick  
88 Bonn (Jessica) Camp; granddaughters, Corban and Josephine;  
89 siblings, Dewey W. Camp, Jr., and Bonnie W. Camp; and multiple  
90 nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends; and

91           WHEREAS, we encourage the Camp family to find solace from  
92 these words recorded in II Corinthians 1:3-4, "Blessed be the God  
93 and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God



94 of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we  
95 may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the  
96 comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."; and

97 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to commend the  
98 monumental life of genuine and selfless individuals of Mr. Camp's  
99 caliber, whose life's light illuminated the path of hope and  
100 change throughout the State of Mississippi, as well as for all he  
101 encountered along his earthly sojourn:

102 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
103 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING  
104 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the life, legacy and  
105 contributions of Mr. Robert Daniel "Dan" Camp, the incomparable  
106 "Mayor of the Cotton District," and express deepest sympathy upon  
107 his passing to his family and friends.

108 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
109 furnished to the family of Mr. Robert Daniel "Dan" Camp and to the  
110 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

