

By: Representatives Hopkins, Eubanks,
Darnell, Criswell

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 19

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. HOMER DEE
2 SKELTON AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS
3 UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, it is written in Ecclesiastes 3:1 that "To
5 everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under
6 the Heaven," and as such, on November 7, 2020, the immaculate
7 author and finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal
8 presence of dearly beloved, Mr. Homer Dee Skelton, to eternal
9 rest, rendering great sorrow and loss to his family and friends;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, born on May 27, 1931, to Mrs. Golden and Mr. Sparlin
12 Skelton of Alamo, Tennessee, Mr. Skelton accepted Jesus Christ as
13 his Lord and Savior at the young age of 17, and he remained
14 faithful in ministry all of his life; and

15 WHEREAS, from an early age, Mr. Skelton had great passion and
16 tremendous work ethic that was a driving force throughout his
17 life, and he believed in treating people the way he wanted to be
18 treated, and it was this simple philosophy that propelled him to



19 own and successfully operate multiple car dealerships in Memphis
20 and Millington, Tennessee, and Olive Branch, Mississippi, and he
21 told everyone he met, "if you do what you love, you will never
22 work a day in your life"; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Skelton believed in giving back and supporting
24 his community, with one hundred percent of his salary from his car
25 dealerships for the past number of years going to the Homer
26 Skelton Charitable Foundation to support his church, community,
27 and public and private schools in Memphis, Tennessee, and DeSoto
28 County, Mississippi; and

29 WHEREAS, the number of lives Mr. Skelton touched through his
30 generosity is truly countless, and for more than twenty years, he
31 provided coats, shoes and bicycles to children in need; equipped
32 the Automotive Center at DeSoto County Schools Career Tech Center
33 in Horn Lake, Mississippi; helped build the "Field of Dreams"
34 baseball field at Snowden Grove in Southaven, Mississippi, for
35 handicapped children; provided hundreds of computers and
36 technology to schools, an undisclosed number of scholarships for
37 students, and behavior and leadership programs that changed many
38 students' lives; and many needy children were able to enjoy summer
39 camps because of his quiet giving; and

40 WHEREAS, when making significant donations to schools each
41 year, Mr. Skelton never sought publicity for his good works, and
42 his one request year after year was to "spend this on the children
43 who need it the most", and if pressed, he would explain his giving



44 philosophy, quoting Matthew 6:1-4, "But when you give to the
45 needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is
46 doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who
47 sees in secret will reward you."; and

48 WHEREAS, Mr. Skelton loved to give back to the community, and
49 taught his family to do the same, and he never wanted any
50 recognition, only to make a difference, and his abundant
51 generosity is a huge part of his outstanding legacy; and

52 WHEREAS, some of the notable organizations Mr. Skelton
53 quietly supported each month include: Pregnancy Care Center in
54 Southaven, Mississippi; Memphis Boys and Girls Club; Shepherds
55 Haven in Arlington, Tennessee; Olive Branch Food Pantry; Special
56 Kids and Families Daycare Center; Memphis Street Ministries; Hope
57 House Day Center; Memphis Union Mission; Precious in Pink Prison
58 Ministry; Agape Child and Family Ministry in Memphis, Tennessee;
59 Care Wheels; and Wesley Meadows Green House Campaign, home for
60 Alzheimer's unit, in Hernando, Mississippi; and

61 WHEREAS, devoted to his faith, Mr. Skelton was a dedicated
62 member of Longview Heights Baptist Church in Olive Branch,
63 Mississippi, as long as his health allowed, and was a faithful
64 member of Jerry Greene's Sunday School class, and he donated funds
65 to build a Family Life Center for Longview Heights Baptist Church
66 and a second one at Longview Point Baptist Church in Hernando,
67 Mississippi; and



68 WHEREAS, Mr. Skelton endured to the end with hope, optimism,
69 laughter and faith, and he saw the best in everyone and believed
70 in others even when they did not believe in themselves, and even
71 in the face of great career success and accolades, he was most
72 proud of his family and friends, and they are forever changed by
73 the love he freely expressed and gave; and

74 WHEREAS, a genuine and distinguished man, Mr. Skelton's
75 extraordinary devotion to his family and to his community will
76 always be remembered, and precious memories of time spent with him
77 will hopefully continue to provide warmth, peace and comfort to
78 his loved ones; and

79 WHEREAS, though he has traversed the river of life to reunite
80 with those who answered God's summons to life eternal and now
81 beckon his arrival to the celestial shores of Heaven's grandeur,
82 such as his twin sister, Deedie, and younger brother, Franklin,
83 the legacy of Mr. Skelton's indelible imprint upon our lives will
84 continue to refresh the hearts and fond memories of his loved
85 ones, including his devoted wife of 34 years, Mrs. Catherine Moore
86 Skelton, who he lovingly referred to as his "Kingfish"; children,
87 Rhonda Lewis, Renee Hollingsworth and Michelle Skelton Chapman;
88 grandchildren, Melissa Fowlkes, Michael Pope, Brooke Hayes,
89 Tiffany Rowley, Chelsie Chapman Gilbert, Brennon Chapman and
90 Jeremiah Chapman; great-grandchildren, Hillari Gharib, Zac
91 Fowlkes, Gabriella Fowlkes, Bennett Fowlkes, Adalae Pope, Carter
92 Gilbert, Kessler Gilbert and Kindsay Kate Gilbert;



93 great-great-granddaughters, Savannah and Daphne; three fur babies,
94 Grace, Lily and Casey; and a host of other relatives and dear
95 friends; and

96 WHEREAS, Mr. Skelton will forever be loved, cherished and
97 missed by all who knew him, and since it is written in
98 2 Corinthians 5:8, that to be "absent from the body is to be
99 present with the Lord," his family and friends can find peace and
100 comfort during this difficult time; and

101 WHEREAS, Mr. Skelton was a Christian, successful businessman,
102 philanthropist, accomplished pilot, veteran of the National Guard,
103 devoted family man, beloved husband, father, and "DeeDaddy," and
104 his life was full of recognition and distinction, yet he was
105 humble, kind, caring and generous, and he lived a long life full
106 of love, laughter and longevity until God decided his work here
107 was done, and he fought the good fight, finished the race and kept
108 the faith; and

109 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
110 recognize and commend the lives of outstanding Mississippians,
111 especially those such as Mr. Skelton, who certainly inspired
112 everyone he met and whose life's light illuminated the path of
113 hope for all he encountered along his earthly sojourn:

114 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
115 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
116 mourn the loss and commemorate the life and legacy of Mr. Homer



117 Dee Skelton, and express sincere and deepest sympathy to his
118 family and friends upon his passing.

119 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
120 furnished to the family of Mr. Homer Dee Skelton and to the
121 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

