

By: Representatives Gibbs (72nd), Anderson (110th), Anthony, Bailey, Banks, Bell (65th), Blackmon, Brown (70th), Burnett, Clark, Clarke, Crudup, Denton, Faulkner, Foster, Gibbs (36th), Harness, Hines, Holloway, Hudson, Jackson, Johnson, Karriem, McCray, Mickens, Miles, Osborne, Paden, Porter, Reynolds, Rosebud, Scott, Stamps, Summers, Taylor, Thompson, Walker, Watson, Williams-Barnes, Yates, Young, Boyd To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 23

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE, LEGACY AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF
2 MRS. RUTH ANTOINETTE BATTON CAMPBELL AND EXPRESSING SINCEREST
3 SYMPATHY UPON HER 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, Mrs. Ruth Antoinette Batton Campbell, a woman of
12 beauty and grace, who was blessed with a servant's heart to help
13 her fellowman, to eternal rest on Wednesday, April 1, 2020, at the
14 age of 80, as she made life's final transition from earthly
15 travailing to heavenly reward, rendering great sorrow and loss to
16 her family and many friends throughout Central Mississippi and
17 beyond; and



18 WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi lost an unsung heroine,
19 wonderful friend, revered educator and media personality with the
20 passing of Mrs. Campbell, a native of Benton, Mississippi, born on
21 June 30, 1939, to her late parents, Viola Brice and Cleophas
22 Batton, who reared her in love, and there is now a hush in our
23 hearts as we come together to pay our respects to the memory of
24 one who has been called to join that innumerable heavenly caravan
25 to the glory foretold in Romans 8:20-21, "For the creation was
26 subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will
27 of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will
28 be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the
29 freedom and glory of the children of God"; and

30 WHEREAS, entrenched with a keen awareness of the importance
31 of receiving an education, Ruth's insatiable thirst for knowledge
32 led her to earn an associate's degree from Coahoma Junior College
33 in Clarksdale, Mississippi, in 1959, and in 1961, she attained her
34 bachelor's degree in language arts from Jackson State College; and

35 WHEREAS, as one who always set herself apart by advancing to
36 the next level to continually perfect her craft, Mrs. Campbell
37 furthered her educational matriculation by earning a master's
38 degree, in 1970, from the University of Southern Mississippi, and
39 utilizing her degrees as a paramount master of the English and
40 French languages, public speaking and literature, she imparted all
41 of her acquired knowledge into the impressionable minds of young
42 people as a public school teacher; and



43 WHEREAS, as fate would lend itself to being built in
44 accordance with the blueprint divinely designed for the pattern of
45 her life by the Great Deity and grand architect of our lives'
46 destiny, the young Ruth's heart was pierced by the love, chivalry
47 and affection of Leon Campbell, and the duo became bone of one
48 another's bone and flesh of one another's flesh after exchanging
49 the nuptials of holy matrimony, and embarked upon a journey
50 together in a life of awareness as public servants called to
51 social and civic activism, the tenets of which they embedded in
52 the lineal fabric of their three children; and

53 WHEREAS, Mrs. Campbell, after making a positive impact in the
54 public school system, made contributions as a market analyst with
55 the Mississippi Research and Development Center, and she later
56 entered the field of broadcasting at the Mississippi Authority for
57 Educational Television, where she made her indelible mark as host
58 of the longest running minority-oriented public affairs series in
59 the Magnolia State, and she served as the executive producer for
60 all public affairs programming at the network; and

61 WHEREAS, Mrs. Campbell also served as a special assistant to
62 Governor Ray Mabus, and she served as the associate director at
63 the Jackson State University Lifelong Learning Center, and
64 completed her dynamic career as the deputy director for the City
65 of Jackson's Department of Human and Cultural Services; and

66 WHEREAS, cognizant of the words recorded in I John 3:2 -
67 "Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has



68 not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we
69 shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is," Mrs. Campbell,
70 through her zealous commitment to the people and causes dear to
71 her heart, strove diligently to exemplify a Christ-like walk
72 before her family and friends, and evidenced her faith in Christ
73 through her diligent works at Pearl Street African Methodist
74 Episcopal Church, where she served in numerous capacities, and
75 which acknowledged her esteemed service with the presentation of
76 the Distinguished Leadership Award; and

77 WHEREAS, Mrs. Campbell received a plethora of awards in
78 recognition of her community service and giving spirit, including:
79 Humanitarian Award from the University of Southern Mississippi,
80 Presidential Citation for Alumni of the Year Award from the
81 University of Southern Mississippi and a Founders Award from the
82 National Black Programming Consortium; and

83 WHEREAS, Mrs. Campbell made impactful contributions as the
84 chair of the National Black Programming Consortium, member of the
85 advisory board for Catholic Charities, member of the advisory
86 council for 21st Century Community Learning Center, and was a
87 pioneer in her own right as a founding member of the National
88 Coalition of 100 Black Women in Jackson, as well as Friends of
89 Public Broadcasting - which was a testament of her forward
90 thinking nature; and

91 WHEREAS, though she has traversed life's river to now stand
92 upon the celestial shores in wonderment of Heaven's grandeur in



93 glorious reunion with the kindred spirits who transitioned before
94 her, including her parents, the memories of Mrs. Campbell will
95 continue to flourish in the hearts and minds of her survivors,
96 some of whom include: her devoted husband, Leon; children,
97 Kimberly, Sheva and Cord; and her doting grandchildren, Sage,
98 Breelan, Iliya, Cord and Carrie Antoinette; and

99 WHEREAS, we encourage the Campbell family to find solace from
100 these words recorded in 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 - "Blessed be the God
101 and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God
102 of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we
103 may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the
104 comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."; and

105 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
106 commend the monumental life of genuine and selfless individuals of
107 Mrs. Campbell's caliber, whose life's light illuminated the path
108 of hope and change throughout the State of Mississippi, as well as
109 for all she encountered along her earthly sojourn:

110 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
111 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
112 commend the life, legacy and contributions of Mrs. Ruth Antoinette
113 Batton Campbell and express deepest sympathy upon her passing to
114 her family and friends.

115 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
116 forwarded to the family of Mrs. Ruth Antoinette Batton Campbell
117 and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

