

By: Senator(s) Sparks, Norwood, Simmons
(12th), Barnett, Barrett, Blackwell,
Caughman, Chassaniol, Chism, DeBar, England,
Frazier, Hopson, Horhn, McLendon, McMahan,
Michel, Thompson, Turner-Ford, Whaley,
Williams, Witherspoon, Jackson (32nd),
Simmons (13th)

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 503

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING MS. ASYA BRANCH UPON BEING
2 CROWNED MISS USA 2020.

3 WHEREAS, Ms. Asya Branch, as the reigning Miss Mississippi
4 USA, was crowned Miss USA 2020 on Monday, November 9, 2020,
5 capturing the coveted title sought by a competitive field of young
6 ladies who competed to represent Mississippi in the 2020 Miss USA
7 Pageant; and

8 WHEREAS, Branch was born in Michigan in 1998. In 2003, her
9 family relocated to Booneville, Mississippi. As a child, she grew
10 up in a faith-based home and victoriously began singing in church;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, in 2005, Branch participated and placed in her first
13 pageant. She was later crowned Miss All-American City 2017.
14 Representing Tupelo, she was crowned Miss Mississippi 2018 at the
15 Vicksburg Convention Center in Vicksburg, Mississippi, and went on
16 to compete in the Miss America Pageant, where she was unplaced;
17 and



18 WHEREAS, as Miss Mississippi USA, Branch was awarded the
19 opportunity to represent Mississippi at the 2020 Miss USA Pageant,
20 becoming the first African-American woman to be named Miss
21 Mississippi USA. She also became the first Mississippian to win
22 the Miss USA Pageant. As Miss USA, Branch will represent the
23 United States of America at the Miss Universe Pageant in 2021; and

24 WHEREAS, Branch is passionate about prison reform and is an
25 advocate for at-risk children. Her platform is "Empowering
26 Children of Incarcerated Parents," which aims to help children of
27 incarcerated parents understand their situation and to empower
28 those children to reach their dreams. Her platform was inspired
29 by her father, who is incarcerated yet remains her biggest
30 encourager and supporter; and

31 WHEREAS, Branch is currently a student at the University of
32 Mississippi, where she is studying Broadcast Journalism; and

33 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the Legislature to recognize and
34 commend outstanding Mississippians who have brought honor and
35 pride to their families, their communities, and the entire State
36 of Mississippi:

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
38 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
39 we do hereby recognize and commend Ms. Asya Branch for being
40 crowned Miss USA 2020, and extend sincerest wishes for continued
41 success at the Miss Universe Pageant and in all her future
42 endeavors.



43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
44 Ms. Asya Branch and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

