

By: Senator(s) Younger, Fillingane, Jackson To: Rules
(32nd)

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 8

1 A RESOLUTION PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE 52-YEAR LAW ENFORCEMENT
2 CAREER OF CONSTABLE HOUSTON "HOOT" WEST OF CALEDONIA, MISSISSIPPI,
3 WHO WAS LOST IN THE LINE OF DUTY, AND EXTENDING THE CONDOLENCES OF
4 THE MISSISSIPPI SENATE TO HIS SURVIVING FAMILY.

5 WHEREAS, we join the law enforcement community in mourning
6 the loss of a fallen officer, Constable Houston "Hoot" West (81)
7 of Caledonia, Mississippi; and

8 WHEREAS, on May 10, 2020, Constable West was performing his
9 normal job, on his way to serve civil papers. While he was
10 driving around a curve in the road, his patrol vehicle left the
11 roadway and struck a tree. Constable West died from injuries he
12 sustained when he was involved in the traffic accident; and

13 WHEREAS, West entered law enforcement in 1962 as a Deputy in
14 the Lowndes County Sheriff's Office, but it was as Constable that
15 he "became a legend." West was elected as District 1 Constable in
16 1967 and was reelected an astonishing 12 times, which it is the
17 nature of the job for constables to make some enemies of the
18 neighbors he had to serve papers or arrest. But West had a way of
19 soothing hurt feelings. Over his five decades in law enforcement,



20 West was shot, wounded and exposed to other dangers, but he never
21 seemed to lose his good humor. Hoot always referred to all
22 citizens - family, friends, even foes alike, as "my people," said
23 Caledonia Mayor Mitch Wiggins, whose late father was a close
24 friend of West. "He looked out for people. He believed his job
25 was a calling and served faithfully any time, day or night"; and

26 WHEREAS, residents of District 1 have lost something in
27 Constable West that cannot be replaced. It was like Mayberry
28 losing Andy Taylor. It was an honor to be raised in a community
29 being protected by a man like Hoot West; and

30 WHEREAS, he is survived by his son, Michael "Mike"
31 (Patricia); two daughters, Debbie (Billy) and Paula; mother, Ellie
32 Rhee Reeves West; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren;
33 brother; and two sisters; and

34 WHEREAS, we can never repay our debt to these officers and
35 their families, but we must do what we can, with all that we have,
36 to live our lives in a way that pays tribute to their memory. We
37 should not pause and remember to thank first responders and police
38 officers only in the wake of tragedy, we should do it every day:

39 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
40 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby pay tribute to the 52-year law
41 enforcement career of Constable Houston "Hoot" West of Caledonia,
42 Mississippi, who was lost in the line of duty, and extending the
43 condolences of the Mississippi Senate to his surviving family.



44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
45 the surviving family of Constable Houston "Hoot" West and the
46 Board of Supervisors of Lowndes County, Mississippi, and made
47 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

