

By: Representatives McLeod, Ladner

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 73

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING
2 THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. JOHN GIRARD GUTHRIE.

3 WHEREAS, it is written in Ecclesiastes 3:1 that "To
4 everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under
5 the Heaven," and as such, on Friday, February 4, 2022, the
6 immaculate author and finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the
7 mortal presence of dearly beloved, Mr. John Girard Guthrie, to
8 eternal rest, rendering great sorrow and loss to his family,
9 friends and community; and

10 WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi lost a wonderful friend,
11 loving father and dedicated community leader with the passing of
12 Mr. Guthrie, who was born in Deerfield, Florida, on September 6,
13 1925, and grew up in West Lafayette, Indiana, where he was an
14 All-State football guard at West Lafayette High School, and there
15 is now a hush in our hearts as we come together to pay our
16 respects to the memory of one who has been called to join that
17 innumerable heavenly caravan; and



18 WHEREAS, Mr. Guthrie was a man of uncompromised faith and
19 very active in the First United Methodist Church of Wiggins, where
20 he had 67 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School, sang in
21 the choir for 60 years, and served as a Sunday School teacher,
22 trustee, and in numerous other roles, and he now enjoys the
23 eternal peace described in Luke 2:29, "Lord, now you are letting
24 your servant depart in peace, according to your word"; and

25 WHEREAS, consumed with an altruistic desire to defend his
26 country, Mr. Guthrie joined an elite fraternity of airmen in what
27 is now the United States Air Force, where he courageously served
28 as a fighter pilot during World War II, and after his time in the
29 military, he attended Purdue University, where he was a member of
30 the Sigma Chi Fraternity and completed a bachelor of science in
31 forestry degree in 1948; and

32 WHEREAS, during his tenure at Purdue, he not only received
33 his bachelor's degree, but he also met the love of his life,
34 Randalin Tuesburg, and the two lovebirds exchanged the vows of
35 holy matrimony in February 1949 and enjoyed 64 years of marriage
36 before Randalin's passing; and

37 WHEREAS, Mr. Guthrie's first job upon graduation was with the
38 Illinois Central Railroad as a forestry agent to help reforest the
39 south, so he and his wife moved to Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and
40 brought Purdue's prototype mechanical tree planter, and Mr.
41 Guthrie helped perfect the tree planter into what became known as



42 the Illinois Central Tree Planter, earning him the nickname,
43 "Johnny Pinetree"; and

44 WHEREAS, later in his professional life, Mr. Guthrie began to
45 work for Dantzler Lumber Company, moved to Wiggins, Mississippi,
46 in 1951, and eventually opened what is now John G. Guthrie and
47 Sons in 1954, and throughout the entirety of his career, he
48 remained an advocate for the forestry profession and was issued
49 Registered Forester License No. 1 in Mississippi, and he served as
50 the first chairman for the Mississippi Board of Registration for
51 Foresters; and

52 WHEREAS, additionally, he was a licensed real estate broker
53 and served on the Mississippi Real Estate Appraiser Licensing and
54 Certification Board, served as a member of the Society of American
55 Foresters for 73 years, as a charter member of the Mississippi
56 Association of Consulting Foresters, as a past president of the
57 Mississippi Forestry Association, and on the board for Forestry
58 Suppliers, Inc.; and

59 WHEREAS, Mr. Guthrie was a 72-year member and past master of
60 J.L. Power Masonic Lodge No. 416 F. and A.M. in Perkinston,
61 Mississippi, and a longtime member of Knights Templar, Scottish
62 Rite, Miriam Chapter No. 67 Order of the Eastern Star (Past
63 Patron), Gideons International and Neighborhood Watchdogs in
64 Wiggins, and he was active in the Boy Scouts, where he received
65 the Silver Beaver, Pine Burr and Good Scout awards, served as a
66 Scout Master, and was on the Pine Burr Area Council Camp Committee



67 locating Camp Tiak in Fruitland Park, and he also served on the
68 Girl Scout Camp Committee to locate and purchase the Gulf Pine
69 Council Camp Iti Kana; and

70 WHEREAS, the memory of Mr. John Girard Guthrie, a man held in
71 the highest regard by friends and family as an inspiring and
72 precious gift from God, will continue to refresh the hearts and
73 memories of his beloved survivors: his children, Suzanne, John
74 G., Jr. (Sonja), James D. (Sherrye) and Randal L. (Connie); 10
75 grandchildren, David (Jennifer), Anny (Jacob Dykes), Christopher,
76 Joseph (Kharri), Samantha (John Thames), Katie (Jason Leist), Rand
77 (Ashley), Calista (Austin Mills), Sarah and John G., III; 20
78 great-grandchildren with two more on the way; and a host of other
79 relatives and friends; and

80 WHEREAS, we encourage the family to find solace from the
81 overwhelming sadness created by the earthly departure of their
82 beloved family member in Revelation 21:4, wherein is recorded,
83 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there
84 shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall
85 there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" and
86 renewed in their faith that Mr. Guthrie fulfilled the commandment
87 of II Timothy 4:7 by having "fought a good fight, finishing his
88 course and keeping the faith until the hour of his departure was
89 at hand"; and

90 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
91 and honor the lives of fine Mississippians, especially those such



92 as Mr. John Girard Guthrie, a gracious man who loved his family,
93 friends and community unconditionally, bringing glory and honor to
94 the State of Mississippi:

95 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
96 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
97 THEREIN, That we do hereby mourn the loss and commemorate the life
98 and legacy of Mr. John Girard Guthrie, and express deepest
99 sympathy to his family and friends upon his passing.

100 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
101 furnished to the family of Mr. John Girard Guthrie and to the
102 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

