

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.

