

By: Representative Porter

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 75

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE, SERVICE AND
2 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MRS. HILDA LOUISE SMITH CASIN AND ACKNOWLEDGING
3 HER SIGNIFICANT EDUCATIONAL AND CIVIC CONTRIBUTION TO PIKE COUNTY,
4 MISSISSIPPI.

5 WHEREAS, the only child of her late parents, Mr. Willie B.
6 and Mrs. Ruth Mae Bonds Smith, born and reared in McComb,
7 Mississippi, on the precept tenets of humility, integrity,
8 intestinal fortitude and the importance of education, Mrs. Hilda
9 Louise Smith Casin premised her life to one of service to
10 humanity, starting right in her native home; and

11 WHEREAS, a 1948 graduate of Burglund High School, a young
12 Louise attended Southern Christian Institute, where she received
13 her associate's degree in 1950, which prepared her for her
14 inaugural entry into the wonderful world of educational
15 instruction, which commenced during the fall of the same year at
16 Stephenson Elementary School as a fourth and fifth grade teacher;
17 and

18 WHEREAS, eager to sharpen her educational acumen and expand
19 her arsenal of instructional tools, Mrs. Casin embarked upon a



20 journey of undergraduate and postgraduate matriculation, which
21 materialized in her receipt of a bachelor of science degree in
22 elementary education from Jackson State University in 1959, a
23 National Science Foundation Grant to attend Depauw University
24 during the summer of 1962, and both a master of science degree in
25 guidance and counseling and an education specialist degree in
26 educational administration from the University of Mississippi, in
27 1969 and 1977 respectively; and

28 WHEREAS, on a trailblazing trajectory for career success in
29 her chosen profession, Mrs. Casin was one of 19 national
30 participants chosen to attend the Computer Assisted Instruction
31 Institute at Stanford University in 1969, and became the first
32 African-American inductee into the University of Mississippi
33 Chapter of Kappa Delta Pi Education Honor Society; and

34 WHEREAS, Mrs. Casin's commitment to educational excellence
35 and the success of students under her instructional tutelage and
36 guidance spanned the course of 50 years until her retirement in
37 2000, which encompassed the ascent from roles as an instructor to
38 an apex conclusion in a supervisory position as a district
39 administrator for the final 27 years of her career, and witnessed
40 the inception of a personal self-funded scholarship to assist
41 students in attending the college or university of their choice;
42 and

43 WHEREAS, her community service is inclusive of a broad span
44 of civic and social involvement, stemming from the McComb Library



45 Board, the Railroad Museum Board, the Pike County Chamber of
46 Commerce Board, Pike County Teachers Federal Credit Union Board,
47 Pike County Business League, NAACP, Jackson State University
48 Alumni Association and the McComb Historic Preservation
49 Commission, the latter of which inspired her to establish Pike
50 County's Black History Gallery as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
51 organization listed within the State of Mississippi's Tourism
52 Guide Book; and

53 WHEREAS, with these affiliations, she has been on the
54 receiving end of numerous accolades of acknowledgement, including,
55 but not limited to: the Georgia Westbrook Club Award for
56 Excellence; 24th Street Church Award; Walker's Chapel Church
57 Award; McComb Club Award; McComb-Pike Reading Council's IRA
58 Service Award; the McComb Negro Business and Professional's Woman
59 of the Year Award; Alpha Kappa Alpha - Phi Mu Omega Chapter
60 Community Service Award; NAACP's C.C. Bryant Lifetime Achievement
61 Award; Pike County Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement
62 Award; Jubilee Performing Arts Center's Lifetime Achievement
63 Award; *Enterprise Journal's* Lifetime Achievement Award; and
64 Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma's Red Rose Award; and

65 WHEREAS, having been encouraged, inspired and supported in
66 all of her career and civic endeavor by her late husband, Silas
67 Casin, Jr., until his untimely transition, Mrs. Casin continues to
68 enjoy the boundless affection and inspiration of her immediate
69 family circle, including: her daughter, Dr. Sylvia Casin-Brown;



70 grandson, Justin E. Armstrong; and completed by the calvary of
71 Thompson, Webb, Harris, Bonds and Barnes families; and

72 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to commend the
73 excellence displayed in the venerable lives and careers of such
74 esteemed Mississippians of Mrs. Casin's caliber, whose lifetime of
75 educational prowess is attributable to shaping the minds and
76 futures of countless thousands of students and families with whom
77 she interacted and the enduring impacts upon lineal generations
78 which followed:

79 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
80 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
81 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the life, service and
82 accomplishments of Mrs. Hilda Louise Smith Casin and acknowledge
83 her significant educational and civic contributions to Pike
84 County, Mississippi.

85 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
86 furnished to Mrs. Hilda Louise Smith Casin and to the members of
87 the Capitol Press Corps.

