

By: Representatives Roberson, Boyd

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 14

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. MACK
2 ELMORE BANKS AND EXPRESSING SINCEREST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY,
3 COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, it is written in II Corinthians 4:17-18, "For our
5 light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far
6 more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at
7 the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen:
8 for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which
9 are not seen are eternal," and as such, the immaculate author and
10 finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal presence of
11 dearly beloved, Mr. Mack Elmore Banks to eternal rest on Tuesday,
12 May 4, 2021, at the age of 86, as he made life's final transition
13 from earthly travailing to heavenly reward, rendering great sorrow
14 and loss to his family and many friends throughout Central
15 Mississippi and beyond; and

16 WHEREAS, the West Point and Starkville communities lost an
17 astute businessman and community pillar with the passing of Mr.
18 Banks, born in Jasper, Alabama, on September 17, 1934, to his late



19 parents, Mr. James McClain Banks and Mrs. Willie Lee Fair Banks,
20 and there is now a hush in our hearts as we come together to pay
21 our respects to the memory of one who has been called to join that
22 innumerable heavenly caravan; and

23 WHEREAS, the youngest of his parents' 10 children, Mr. Banks'
24 family relocated to Mississippi when he was only six months old,
25 and eventually established their family roots by homesteading in
26 Artesia, Mississippi, when Mack was in 3rd Grade; and

27 WHEREAS, Mr. Banks graduated from Artesia High School in 1953
28 and, as a lifelong lover of music who began playing guitar at age
29 11 and writing songs at age 13, set out in pursuit of a career in
30 music which, over the years, included stints as a guitarist and
31 vocalist with several bands and local circuit tours alongside Carl
32 Perkins and Johnny Cash; and

33 WHEREAS, Mack's possible chance at national stardom escaped
34 him after "Blue Suede Shoes" hit No. 1 on the national charts on
35 the same day as his appointment to audition for Sam Phillips of
36 Sun Records, causing his appointment to be postponed and
37 sacrificed to Jerry Lee Lewis, because he was unable to stay
38 beyond the scheduled appointment window; and

39 WHEREAS, although Mack fell short of his dream for national
40 acclaim, he did make it into the Rockabilly Hall of Fame with his
41 original recording, "Be Boppin Daddy," and was favored with the
42 greatest award he could ever imagine upon meeting Anita Kate
43 Ashby, at WCPC radio station in Houston, Mississippi, in 1958, who



44 would become his wife for the next 62 years in November of that
45 same year; and

46 WHEREAS, the Banks made West Point their permanent home in
47 February 1959, and Mack became a self-made man as an entrepreneur:
48 owning an insurance agency, a supper club and a music wholesale
49 company, the latter two of which would occasionally conjure up
50 some raucous behavior by its patrons; and

51 WHEREAS, always cognizant of the words recorded in I John
52 3:2, "Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will
53 be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ
54 appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is," Mr.
55 Banks recommitted his life to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in
56 2003, and became an active member of the First Presbyterian Church
57 again and served as a deacon; and

58 WHEREAS, upon embarking on his new spiritual journey, Mr.
59 Banks devoted his gift of music and instrumentality to church and
60 considered it a privilege to be allowed to play and sing for the
61 congregation many Sundays, and relished the joy he received from
62 his Sunday School class and Men's Bible Study; and

63 WHEREAS, though he has traversed life's river to now stand
64 upon the celestial shores in wonderment of Heaven's grandeur in
65 glorious reunion with the kindred spirits of loved ones who
66 transitioned before him, the memories of Mr. Banks will continue
67 to flourish in the hearts and minds of his survivors: his devoted
68 wife, Anita Banks; daughters, Sonya Blaxton, Darlene Melton and



69 Natalie Wheeler (Bill); grandchildren, Koren Paulsen, Casey
70 Johnston II, Amy Able, Tori Cocharo, Alex Wheeler, Elizabeth
71 Pettit and Amber Blaxton; eight great-grandchildren; extra special
72 niece, Judy White; and numerous other relatives and friends; and

73 WHEREAS, we encourage the Banks family to find solace from
74 these words recorded in II Corinthians 1:3-4, "Blessed be the God
75 and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God
76 of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we
77 may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the
78 comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."; and

79 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
80 commend the monumental life of genuine individuals of Mr. Banks'
81 caliber, whose life was synonymous with the music he played, wrote
82 and sang, which struck a melodious chord with all he encountered
83 along his earthly sojourn:

84 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
85 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
86 commend the life and legacy of Mr. Mack Elmore Banks, and express
87 deepest sympathy upon his passing to his family and friends.

88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
89 furnished to the family of Mr. Mack Elmore Banks and to the
90 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

