

By: Representatives Calvert, Evans (45th),  
Horne

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 55

1 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. GUSTAVUS  
2 ADOLPHUS "SONNY" RUSH III AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS  
3 FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, it is written in Ecclesiastes 3:1 that "To  
5 everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under  
6 the Heaven," and as such, on August 20, 2021, the immaculate  
7 author and finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal  
8 presence of dearly beloved, Dr. G.A. "Sonny" Rush III, to eternal  
9 rest, rendering great sorrow and loss to his family, friends and  
10 community; and

11 WHEREAS, born on September 29, 1952, in Meridian,  
12 Mississippi, to Mr. Gustavus Adolphus Rush, Jr., and Mrs. Virginia  
13 Arline Rush, Dr. Rush was a 1970 graduate of Meridian High School,  
14 where he was class president, and after graduating high school, he  
15 attended the University of Mississippi, where he was a member of  
16 Phi Delta Theta fraternity, where he was fondly known as "The  
17 Governor"; and



18           WHEREAS, Dr. Rush received his Doctorate of Medicine at  
19 University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Mississippi,  
20 in 1978, and then he completed his residency training in  
21 orthopedic surgery and sports medicine in 1984, at Ochsner  
22 Foundation Hospital in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he served as  
23 Chief Orthopedic Resident; and

24           WHEREAS, after completing his residency, Dr. Rush joined Rush  
25 Foundation Hospital, where he spent the entirety of his  
26 outstanding 38-year career as a third generation of Rush  
27 physicians, and during this time, he improved and enriched the  
28 lives of countless patients and friends, performed over 20,000  
29 surgeries during his career, and had many other tremendous work  
30 accomplishments; and

31           WHEREAS, Dr. Rush was instrumental in founding the Rush  
32 Orthopedic Program at Rush Hospital, and in 1987, he founded the  
33 Rush Sports Medicine Team, a group of orthopedic surgeons,  
34 physical therapists, and athletic trainers who supported over 40  
35 local high schools and colleges in Mississippi and West Alabama,  
36 and in 1992, he founded Rush Sports Medicine Research and  
37 Development, and as he was inspired by his desire to protect young  
38 athletes, he patented several cutting-edge technologies such as  
39 protective helmets and concussion sensors; and

40           WHEREAS, "Dr. Sonny," as he was affectionally known by his  
41 patients, treated work like a blessing, none of it like a chore,  
42 and to him, being a doctor was every bit as fun and enjoyable as



43 his hobbies, and it is no coincidence that he routinely had clinic  
44 on late Friday afternoons because he loved taking care of  
45 patients, and his life was firmly dedicated to that; and

46 WHEREAS, as the true measure of the eternal impact that he  
47 made in this world may never be known, Dr. Rush dedicated his life  
48 to serving others, and as he was not only a beloved physician to  
49 his patients, but also a wonderful friend, and his faithful  
50 service in the medical community will continue to be an  
51 inspiration that will surely provide a road map for others to  
52 imitate for years to come; and

53 WHEREAS, for a sports medicine doctor, Dr. Rush achieved a  
54 Hall of Fame career, yet his career achievements in medicine paled  
55 in comparison to his achievements as a family man, a Christian,  
56 and a friend, and despite his busy schedule, his priorities were  
57 never in question as he prioritized family and faith above all  
58 else, and was adored by his five children and his wife of 40  
59 years, Karen; and

60 WHEREAS, "Pops," as he was lovingly known by his five  
61 children and seven grandchildren, epitomized the ideal father and  
62 grandfather, and as his enormous accomplishments were only matched  
63 by his kindness and humility; and

64 WHEREAS, a genuine and distinguished man of outstanding  
65 character, exceptional courage and strength beyond comparison, Dr.  
66 Rush's devotion to his faith, his family, and to his community  
67 will always be remembered, and precious memories of time spent



68 with him will hopefully continue to provide warmth, peace and  
69 comfort to his loved ones until they are reunited with him in  
70 Glory; and

71 WHEREAS, though he has traversed the river of life to reunite  
72 with those who answered God's summons to life eternal and now  
73 beckon his arrival to the celestial shores of Heaven's grandeur,  
74 such as his parents, Mr. Gustavus Adolphus Rush, Jr., and Mrs.  
75 Virginia Arline Rush, and his sister, Jeannine Rush Savell, the  
76 legacy of Dr. Rush's indelible imprint upon our lives will  
77 continue to refresh the hearts and fond memories of his loved  
78 ones, including his wife, Mrs. Karen Rush, and his five children,  
79 Heath Rush, Lane Rush, Alston Rush, Logan Rush and Callie Waite;  
80 seven grandchildren, Lane Rush, Jr., Luke Rush, Ben Rush, Lillian  
81 Rush, Henry Rush, Clara Jane Rush, and Drew Rush; siblings, Diane  
82 Douglas and Harriette Carney; and a host of other relatives and  
83 dear friends; and

84 WHEREAS, Dr. Rush will forever be loved, cherished and missed  
85 by all who knew him, and since it is written in 2 Corinthians 5:8,  
86 that to be "absent from the body is to be present with the Lord,"  
87 his family and friends can find peace and comfort during this  
88 difficult time, and undoubtedly know that he is shouting with joy  
89 on the streets of gold with many jewels in his crown; and

90 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
91 recognize and commend the lives of extraordinary Mississippians,  
92 especially those such as Dr. Rush, who truly inspired everyone he



93 met and whose life's light illuminated the path of hope for all he  
94 encountered along his earthly sojourn:

95         NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
96 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
97 mourn the loss and commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. G.A.  
98 "Sonny" Rush III, and express sincere and deepest sympathy to his  
99 family, friends and community upon his passing.

100         BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
101 furnished to the family of Dr. Gustavus Adolphus "Sonny" Rush III,  
102 and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

