

By: Representatives Banks, Brown (70th)

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 62

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND
2 LEGACY OF MR. JOHNNY ALLEN MORROW.

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 December 27, 2021, the grand
6 architect of the universe summoned the mortal presence of dearly
7 beloved, Mr. Johnny Allen Morrow, to eternal rest, rendering great
8 sorrow and loss to his family, friends and community; and

9 WHEREAS, the City of Jackson and the State of Mississippi
10 lost a wonderful friend and community leader with the passing of
11 Mr. Morrow, who was called "Bootsy" by those who knew and loved
12 him and was born on October 21, 1954, and he attended Lanier High
13 School and Jackson State University; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Morrow was a well-known and respected
15 entrepreneur, businessman and collector in the Georgetown
16 Community in Jackson, as he owned and operated his own automobile
17 car dealership and detail car shop for decades at Five Points in



18 the Jackson area, and he was the first African-American automobile
19 wholesaler in the State of Mississippi; and

20 WHEREAS, because of Mr. Morrow's extensive knowledge and
21 expertise, automobile dealerships relied heavily upon him to
22 provide dollar figures to trade for automobiles that needed
23 appraising, giving rise to his nickname within the automobile
24 industry, Johnny "Retail" Morrow; and

25 WHEREAS, not only was Mr. Morrow's proficiency apparent to
26 his fellow automobile dealers, but he had a passion for collecting
27 and restoring antique cars and referred to his inventory as "The
28 Morrow Collection," and even Hollywood recognized his prowess and
29 eye for detail as some of his vintage cars appeared in the movie,
30 *The Help*; and

31 WHEREAS, a legend, a thinker, an innovator, a visionary, a
32 historian and a creative genius, Mr. Morrow used his many talents
33 and hobbies to establish a rental hall and multi-purpose complex
34 known as "The Room" located at Five Points, and through his
35 passion and vision to create such a facility, some of
36 Mississippi's most interesting and fascinating history has been
37 preserved, and "The Room" has seen numerous celebrities walk
38 through its doors, including Muhammad Ali, Dan Aykroyd, Snoop Dogg
39 and Morgan Freeman; and

40 WHEREAS, additionally, one of Johnny's many community
41 projects was the development of a magazine entitled *Jackson Cars*,
42 *The Legends of the Automobile Industry*, which enabled him to



43 reflect on the automobile industry pioneers he encountered during
44 his career and publish their stories and contributions to the City
45 of Jackson, which had fascinated him for many years; and

46 WHEREAS, in 1965, the Lanier High School Bulldogs Basketball
47 Team was the only Mississippi high school basketball team to ever
48 win a national championship, but the team was never properly
49 honored because it occurred during the Civil Rights Movement, so
50 for 48 years, their trophy just collected dust in the trophy case,
51 but in January 2013, Mr. Morrow organized and brought together
52 state, city and county entities and local businesses and
53 individuals to properly recognize the team, and the Lanier High
54 School Bulldogs Basketball Team received their national
55 championship rings and were inducted into the Mississippi Sports
56 Hall of Fame and their story also became part of our nation's
57 Congressional Record; and

58 WHEREAS, Mr. Morrow's love and affection pierced the heart
59 and soul of Hazel, the love of his life, and on September 12,
60 1992, the two love birds exchanged the vows of holy matrimony and
61 spent the next 29 years traveling and spending time together; and

62 WHEREAS, in his spare time, Mr. Morrow truly loved spending
63 time with his family and friends, cracking jokes, listening to
64 music and watching football; and

65 WHEREAS, Mr. Johnny Allen Morrow's bright sense of humor,
66 remarkable intelligence and pure heart left an indelible
67 impression in the hearts and minds of his many friends and family,



68 who are left to cherish his memory, including: his brother, Leon
69 (Debra) Morrow; sister, Frances Quin; sister-in-law, Tameaker
70 Hicks; brother-in-law, Dwight (Linda) Johnson; father-in-law,
71 Melkiah Barnes; special cousin, Elvie Willis; and a host of aunts,
72 uncles, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends; and

73 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
74 commend the life and service of such a genuine and selfless
75 individual as Mr. Johnny Allen Morrow, whose life's light
76 illuminated the path of hope for all he encountered along this
77 earthly sojourn:

78 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
79 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
80 mourn the loss and commemorate the life and legacy of Mr. Johnny
81 Allen Morrow and express sincere and deepest sympathy upon his
82 passing.

83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
84 furnished to the family of Mr. Johnny Allen Morrow and to the
85 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

