

By: Representatives Banks, Brown (70th),
Bell (65th), Stamps

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 63

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE, LEGACY AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF
2 DR. DOROTHY "DOT" J. BENFORD AND EXPRESSING SINCEREST SYMPATHY
3 UPON HER PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, Dr. Dorothy "Dot" J. Benford, a renowned and
5 longtime community and political activist, departed this earthly
6 life to be in the presence of the Lord on December 22, 2021, at
7 the age of 79, bringing sorrow to her family and many friends; and

8 WHEREAS, born on October 6, 1942, to her parents, Willie
9 Benford, Sr., and Blanche Coleman Benford, Dr. Benford was reared
10 in Christian love along with her three siblings; and

11 WHEREAS, knowing the importance of receiving an education,
12 Dr. Benford is a graduate of Lanier High School and she attended
13 Jackson State University before earning an undergraduate degree
14 from Tougaloo College and then a master's degree from the
15 University of Mississippi before finally earning a doctorate's
16 degree from Mississippi State University; and

17 WHEREAS, as one who had a passion for sharing knowledge, Dr.
18 Benford positively broadened the minds of youth in her role as an



19 educator with the Jackson Public Schools system, where she taught
20 at Blackburn Junior High and Jim Hill High School respectively;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Dr. Benford also served as a professor at Mary
23 Holmes Junior College in West Point, Mississippi, where she taught
24 political science, American government and history, and she later
25 returned to the Capitol City and made contributions as the curator
26 of history for the Manship House and the Old Capitol Museum; and

27 WHEREAS, a virtuous woman who accepted Christ as her personal
28 Savior at an early age and was baptized at White Baptist Church in
29 Holly Buff, Mississippi, Dr. Benford used her God-given talents
30 and innate nature of wanting to help others and opened and
31 operated The Grace Personal Care and Independent Living Center;
32 and

33 WHEREAS, Dr. Benford not only demonstrated her care for her
34 community by providing much needed services, she also served the
35 community by being a strong community activist and a longtime
36 active member of both the Democratic Party and the National
37 Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); and

38 WHEREAS, the memories of Dr. Benford will continue to
39 flourish in the hearts and minds of her survivors, some of whom
40 include: her sons, Dolph and Dwight; grandchildren, Dominique,
41 Timothy, Destiny, Dwight, Jr., and Tony; brother, Willie; and a
42 host of other loved ones who will forever treasure the pearls of



43 wisdom she so freely shared throughout her 79 years of blessed
44 life; and

45 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
46 commend the life, legacy and contributions of a beloved community
47 supporter such as Dr. Benford who was a friend and defender to
48 those who could not defend or care for themselves:

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
50 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
51 commend the life, legacy and contributions of Dr. Dorothy "Dot" J.
52 Benford and express sincerest sympathy upon her passing to her
53 family and friends.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
55 furnished to the family of Dr. Dorothy "Dot" J. Benford and to the
56 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

