

By: Representative Porter

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 77

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

