

By: Representative Summers

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 111

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE ROBINSON-WATSON BOOK COMPANY AND
2 ITS FOUNDERS MS. CAROL ROBINSON AND REVEREND SHIRLEY WATSON
3 HARRINGTON AND FOR PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ECONOMIC
4 DEVELOPMENT IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI FOR OVER 29 YEARS.

5 WHEREAS, the Robinson-Watson Book Company was founded by
6 Shirley Watson Harrington and Carol Robinson to promote
7 entrepreneurs and economic development in Jackson and this state
8 29 years ago and has remained a positive and effective staple of
9 the Mississippi business community; and

10 WHEREAS, since its inception, the company has honored more
11 than 800 entrepreneurs at its annual honors banquet and inspired
12 countless young people to venture out into business ownership; and

13 WHEREAS, Reverend Harrington and Ms. Robinson are also
14 co-founders of the first Minority Business Phone Directory of
15 Jackson, Mississippi, and Hinds County, Mississippi, which they
16 created to assist minority businesses in networking with each
17 other, and continue to print to this day in various forms with
18 more than 1,000 names, businesses and historical sites and
19 churches; and



20 WHEREAS, these ladies are not only a dynamic duo together,
21 both Carol Todd Robinson and Reverend Shirley Harrington are
22 community activists and powerhouses in their own right, as well;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, Ms. Carol Todd Robinson is a Flint, Michigan, native
25 who ventured to Mississippi to attend Jackson State University in
26 1973, to obtain her master's degree in guidance counseling,
27 pursuing further studies at Mississippi College, Clinton,
28 Mississippi; and

29 WHEREAS, her passion for helping people has driven all of her
30 phenomenal community and professional activities, which include
31 helping incarcerated young men in Oakley Training School, working
32 as an academic counselor at Hinds Community College, developing a
33 Families First Parent Resources Center at the West Jackson
34 Community Development Corporation, assisting older adults
35 returning to college; and

36 WHEREAS, Reverend Shirley Harrington, is a native
37 Mississippian, who has always been a woman of firsts: she was one
38 of the first African Americans to graduate from Provine High
39 School, the first African American hired in Mississippi at the
40 National Weather Service, Climatology Division, Department of
41 Commerce, the first woman to head the seven-state EEOC Local 3699
42 AFGE Union, and she negotiated the first contract under the Civil
43 Service Reform Act; and



44 WHEREAS, most notably, she is the first female associate in
45 the 140 year history of Cade Chapel Baptist Church's seven-member
46 pastoral team conducting marriages, serving funerals and
47 delivering sermons as assigned by Senior Pastor Reginald Buckley;
48 and

49 WHEREAS, Reverend Harrington is also a business owner of
50 Watson, Porter and Associates, with her dear sister, Orbra, and
51 they use their business platform to promote other small businesses
52 along with conducting feasibility studies for school districts and
53 many other entities; and

54 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
55 commend women who empower others in their communities, while
56 boosting economic development in the State of Mississippi:

57 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
58 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
59 commend the Robinson-Watson Book Company and its founders Reverend
60 Shirley Watson Harrington and Ms. Carol Robinson for promoting
61 entrepreneurship and economic development in the State of
62 Mississippi for over 29 years.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
64 furnished to Ms. Carol Robinson and Reverend Shirley Watson
65 Harrington and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

