

By: Representative Watson

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 114

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMENDING THE LIFE AND  
2 LEGACY OF MR. JASPER EARL PERRY, AND EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO HIS  
3 FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, it is written in II Corinthians 4:17-18, "For our  
5 light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far  
6 more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at  
7 the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen:  
8 for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which  
9 are not seen are eternal," and as such, the immaculate author and  
10 finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal presence of  
11 dearly beloved, Jasper Earl Perry, to rest eternally, as he has  
12 made life's final transition from earthly travailing to heavenly  
13 reward, rendering great sorrow and loss to his family and friends;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Forrest County, particularly the community of  
16 Hattiesburg, Mississippi, lost a wonderful friend, true public  
17 servant and revered educator with the passing of Mr. Jasper Earl  
18 Perry, on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, and there is now a hush in



19 our hearts as we come together to pay our respects to the memory  
20 of one who has been called to join that innumerable heavenly  
21 caravan; and

22 WHEREAS, born in Hattiesburg on August 17, 1943, to the late  
23 Ms. Rosa Lee Jones, and raised by Reverend John Henry Chatmon and  
24 Mrs. Missouri Chatmon, "Jazz," as he was affectionately called,  
25 would later move to Dayton, Ohio, with his grandfather, Jasper  
26 Williams, where he completed his formal and secondary education;  
27 and

28 WHEREAS, Jazz strove to apply his best in any endeavor  
29 undertaken, which was made evident in his decision to return to  
30 Mississippi after his high school graduation to pursue his  
31 postsecondary education at Jackson State College (now Jackson  
32 State University) on a football scholarship, before heeding the  
33 patriotic call of allegiance and duty to this nation by enlisting  
34 in the United States Air Force for service during the Vietnam War,  
35 where his bravery earned him a Purple Heart Medal; and

36 WHEREAS, having served his country with pride and  
37 distinction, Mr. Perry was honorably discharged from active  
38 service, and returned to the native soil of Hattiesburg, where it  
39 was written in life's pages of fate and blossoming romance that he  
40 would come to experience the luminescence of love effused from the  
41 existence of the former Miss Elizabeth Warren, and for whose gift  
42 of her heart and hand he bestowed the gift of his last name and  
43 enduring affection, upon their marital union in 1969; and



44 WHEREAS, resolved to complete the journey of collegiate  
45 matriculation, Jazz resumed his baccalaureate pursuits at William  
46 Carey College (now William Carey University), and was conferred  
47 his degree in 1979, and commenced his career as an educator and  
48 social worker, which spanned several decades; and

49 WHEREAS, because Mr. Perry believed in giving back to the  
50 community, he strove to make a difference as a trailblazer, he was  
51 a dedicated member of Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, where he  
52 served as a deacon and as Sunday School superintendent, in  
53 addition to becoming the first African American to run for public  
54 office in Hattiesburg in 1979, and subsequently sought the  
55 position of Forrest County Supervisor for Beat 4 in 1991; and

56 WHEREAS, though he has now traversed the river of life to  
57 stand in glorious reunion with those who transitioned from life to  
58 spiritual immortality before him, the legacy of Mr. Perry will  
59 continue to thrive in the fond memories of his survivors,  
60 including: wife, Elizabeth Warren Perry; children, Dr. Timothy  
61 James (Margaret), Brenda Brown, Torsha Perry and Jacqueline Perry;  
62 godson, Dedrick Brooks; grandchildren, Joshua, Autumn, James Jr.,  
63 Taylor, Michael Jr., and Nicole; siblings, Billie Reid, Otis  
64 Perry, Charlie Jones, Harry Jones and Thomas Jones; and a host of  
65 other relatives and friends; and

66 WHEREAS, we encourage the family to find solace from the  
67 overwhelming sadness created by the earthly departure of their  
68 beloved family member and be renewed in their faith that Mr. Perry



69 fulfilled the purpose of his appointed time in adherence to the  
70 commandment of II Timothy 4:7, by having "fought a good fight,  
71 finishing his course and keeping the faith until the hour of his  
72 departure was at hand"; and

73 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
74 commend the lives of such remarkable individuals, as evidenced by  
75 the life and merits of Mr. Perry, whose selflessness inspired  
76 generations of aspiring talents to become men and women of great  
77 rapport in their respective walks of life:

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 commend the life and legacy of service of Mr.  
81 Jasper Earl Perry, and extend deepest sympathy to his family and  
82 friends upon his passing.

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

