

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.

