

By: Representatives Clarke, Anderson (110th), Bailey, Banks, Bell (65th), Blackmon, Brown (70th), Burnett, Clark, Cockerham, Crudup, Faulkner, Foster, Gibbs (72nd), Harness, Hines, Holloway, Jackson, Johnson, McCray, Mickens, Osborne, Paden, Porter, Rosebud, Sanders, Scott, Stamps, Summers, Thompson, Taylor, Walker, Watson, Williams-Barnes, Yates, Young

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 115

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE AND MILITARY SERVICE OF MR.  
 2 BURGIS M. FORD OF THE 51ST REGIMENT, UNITED STATES COLORED  
 3 INFANTRY DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Burgis M. Ford, who was born in September of  
 5 1832, and was a dedicated member of the 51st Regiment, United  
 6 States Colored Infantry, is being honored for his service during  
 7 the Civil War; and

8 WHEREAS, after the Emancipation Proclamation issued by  
 9 President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, a few short months  
 10 later, on July 18, 1863, Mr. Ford, a young black ex-slave and  
 11 resident of Madison County, Mississippi, voluntarily enlisted into  
 12 the United States Colored Troops (USCT) and was assigned and  
 13 served in the D-1 Mississippi Infantry A.D. (African Descent),  
 14 51st Regiment and served in the garrisons protecting the Cities of  
 15 Vicksburg and Natchez, Mississippi; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Ford and many other young black recruits did not  
 17 hesitate to volunteer to serve in the United States military,  
 18 because they realized that becoming a soldier and fighting in the



19 Civil War meant freedom for themselves and their families, equal  
20 opportunity and the chance to become rightful and respected  
21 citizens in America; and

22 WHEREAS, notably, in addition to Mr. Ford, in the State of  
23 Mississippi, 10,299 men volunteered to fight for the Union and of  
24 the thousands of Mississippians enlisted, 5,244 Mississippians  
25 enlisted in the USCT; and

26 WHEREAS, the 51st Infantry was organized and attached to the  
27 Post of Goodrich Landing, the District of Vicksburg, Mississippi,  
28 from March 1864 to December 1864, and in 1866 the 51st Regiment  
29 completed its service in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

30 WHEREAS, while serving this country, Mr. Ford, along with  
31 other members of the USCT, performed difficult duties that  
32 included tasks such as building fortifications, garrison forts and  
33 guarding supplies; and

34 WHEREAS, once recruited, black soldiers such as Mr. Ford were  
35 held to higher standards and were subjected to harsh and degrading  
36 treatment, often from their commanding officers, and the USCT  
37 soldiers received less pay, were given inferior supplies,  
38 minimized rations and inadequate medical care, and if black  
39 soldiers were captured by the Confederate Army, they were  
40 mistreated and many times executed; and

41 WHEREAS, despite the adverse treatment received, the USCT  
42 proved their worth, and black soldiers, such as Mr. Ford, showed



43 loyalty, patriotism and commitment in helping to secure freedom  
44 for all; and

45 WHEREAS, upon completion of his service, Mr. Ford returned to  
46 Canton, Mississippi, and as a farm laborer, he provided for his  
47 family who included his wife, Alice, and their ten children, one  
48 of whom was named Ida, the grandmother of Representative Alyce  
49 Griffin Clarke; and

50 WHEREAS, Mr. Ford, a man of valor who made an outstanding  
51 contribution in helping attain freedom in America, departed this  
52 earthly life on April 19, 1903, in Livingston, Mississippi, in  
53 Madison County, leaving behind a rich legacy of valor and honor  
54 due to his service in the Civil War; and

55 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
56 pay tribute to great Mississippians such as Mr. Burgis M. Ford,  
57 who through his service in the Civil War with the 51st Regiment  
58 United States Colored Infantry will forever be remembered for his  
59 courage and honor while fighting for freedom for all in America:

60 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
61 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
62 honor the life and military service of Mr. Burgis M. Ford of the  
63 51st Regiment of the United States Colored Infantry.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
65 furnished to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

