

By: Senator(s) Blackmon, Branning, Horhn,  
Sparks, Thomas

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 6

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMENDING THE LIFE,  
2 LEGACY AND CHRISTIAN SERVICE OF MRS. MARY ELIZABETH DANIEL AND  
3 EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HER  
4 PASSING.

5 WHEREAS, it is written in II Corinthians 4:17, "For our light  
6 affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more  
7 exceeding and eternal weight of glory," and as such, the grand  
8 architect of the universe, the immaculate author and finisher of  
9 our soul's destiny, has summoned the mortal presence of dearly  
10 beloved, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Daniel, to eternal rest, as she has  
11 made life's final transition from earthly travailing to the spirit  
12 realm of mighty chieftains and ambassadors, rendering great sorrow  
13 and loss to her family and friends; and

14 WHEREAS, on Monday, January 17, 2022, the City of Jackson and  
15 the entire State of Mississippi lost a wonderful friend, visionary  
16 leader, intrepid public servant, criminal justice professional and  
17 educational administrator with the passing of Mrs. Mary Elizabeth  
18 Daniel, born on October 5, 1947, in Shreveport, Louisiana, to her  
19 late parents Mr. Frank and Mrs. Pearletta Powell Smith, and there



20 is now a hush in our hearts as we come together to pay our  
21 respects to the memory of one who has been called to join that  
22 innumerable heavenly caravan; and

23 WHEREAS, one who embodied the spirit and miraculous mission  
24 of the two biblical icons for whom she was named, and whose  
25 steadfast faith ordained it so that they would become the mothers  
26 of Christ and the forerunner of Christ respectively, Mary  
27 Elizabeth was introduced to the precepts and tenets of  
28 Christianity under the wise counsel of her parents, who encouraged  
29 her to expand both her religious experience, which compelled her  
30 to seek salvation and become a baptized believer at First  
31 Missionary Baptist Church in Shreveport at an early age; and

32 WHEREAS, educated in the Caddo Parrish School System, Mrs.  
33 Daniel completed her formal educational studies at Booker T.  
34 Washington High School in 1975, and expanded her academic  
35 horizons, by attaining her postsecondary education at Jackson  
36 State University where she earned her Bachelor's and Master's  
37 Degrees in Criminal Justice and, subsequently, undertook doctoral  
38 studies in education at Grambling State University; and

39 WHEREAS, Mrs. Daniel's persistent desire to have the most  
40 inspirationally profound impact within her community was  
41 encompassed and ethically based upon her family and the love of  
42 God, as a committed servant, devoted mother, caring and present  
43 family member, loyal friend and missioned professional, who



44 believed in the power of education to further the purpose and  
45 transform the lives of students; and

46 WHEREAS, bearing this purpose in mind, Mrs. Daniel made the  
47 decision to make Jackson her permanent home after completing her  
48 studies at Jackson State University, and she embarked upon a truly  
49 remarkable career journey to fulfill her life's purpose of serving  
50 as a beacon of light and inspiration for aspiring youth, families  
51 and communities throughout the State of Mississippi; and

52 WHEREAS, Mrs. Daniel's career path involved service in the  
53 state government as a qualified professional with the Mississippi  
54 Secretary of State's Office and Mississippi Attorney General's  
55 Office serving under Edwin Pittman, the Jackson Urban League under  
56 the leadership of Vernon Jordan, before she transitioned to the  
57 private sector as Office Manager for Blackmon and Blackmon Law  
58 Firm, each such position prepared her for a return to the public  
59 sector of service within her alma mater's Graduate Department of  
60 Education, from which she retired with a distinguished and  
61 laudable record in 2016, bringing a stellar conclusion to a highly  
62 esteemed career of approximately 50 years of advocacy and service  
63 of others; and

64 WHEREAS, never one to pass on an opportunity to pay a good  
65 deed forward, Mrs. Daniel accepted the role of Executive Director  
66 of the Mississippi Legislative Black Caucus Foundation for  
67 Education and Economic Development (FEED) program, which became a



68 shining star on her personal and professional list of  
69 accomplishments; and

70 WHEREAS, as Executive Director, Mrs. Daniel capitalized on  
71 the rapport she had established with all the various individuals  
72 she met during her public and private career endeavors to maximize  
73 the nature and level of assistance she would be able to deliver in  
74 such capacity, including the creation of a nationally recognized  
75 after school program which served 37 counties by providing  
76 assistance to more than 500,000 students, and organizing a  
77 national bus tour for Mississippi high school juniors and seniors  
78 to visit Historically Black Colleges and Universities around the  
79 country to gainfully expose them to college life and the limitless  
80 possibilities for success beyond high school; and

81 WHEREAS, as one who relied heavily on her faith, Mrs.  
82 Daniel's kingdom-building commitment remained consistent  
83 throughout her Christian service and patronage in life, reflecting  
84 her passion for God through her commitment to assisting others and  
85 her Christ-like care and concern for the body of Christ as a  
86 member of New Hope Baptist Church; and

87 WHEREAS, a God-fearing Christian before all other roles she  
88 assumed, a devoted wife and nurturing mother and grandmother next,  
89 Mrs. Daniel was the living embodiment of a woman of Proverbs 31:10  
90 distinction and possessed the ambitious spirit akin to that of  
91 King David, to be a woman after God's own heart, instilling those  
92 same values into the lineal fabric of her two daughters and



93 grandchildren, as well as the countless lives of children and  
94 families into whom she poured her infinite wisdom; and

95 WHEREAS, in Mrs. Daniel's transfiguration from mortality to  
96 immortality, she now adorns the raiment of a spiritual bride,  
97 awaiting the bridegroom's return in holy anticipation of that  
98 wondrous event, as it is written in the book of Revelation 21:1-2:  
99 "And I saw a new Heaven and a new earth: for the first Heaven and  
100 the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And  
101 I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out  
102 of Heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband"; and

103 WHEREAS, though she has traversed the river of life to  
104 reunite with those who answered God's summons to life eternal and  
105 now beckon her arrival to the celestial shores of Heaven's  
106 grandeur, including both of her parents; brother, Eddie Smith; and  
107 sister, Joyce Smith Johnson. The legacy of Mrs. Daniel's memory,  
108 which if put to music, would be a majestic symphonic masterpiece  
109 composed by the Holy Trinity, will continue to refresh the hearts  
110 and fond memories of her beloved survivors, including: daughters  
111 Yolanda M. Daniel and Dr. LaNetra Daniel April; grandchildren,  
112 Morgan D. Bryant and William April; great-grandchildren: Madisyn,  
113 London, Dakota and Hunter; siblings: Johnetta Smith Norman, Frank  
114 Smith Jr., Joseph Smith, Leon Smith (Delores) and Clarence Smith  
115 (Cynthia); special niece, Tanya B. Tyler; and a host of other  
116 relatives and friends; and



117           WHEREAS, we encourage the family to find solace from the  
118 overwhelming sadness created by the earthly departure of their  
119 beloved family member in Revelation 21:4, wherein is recorded,  
120 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there  
121 shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall  
122 there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away"  
123 and renewed in their faith that Mrs. Daniel fulfilled the  
124 commandment of II Timothy 4:7 by having fought a good fight,  
125 finishing her course and keeping the faith until the hour of her  
126 departure was at hand; and

127           WHEREAS, it is with sincere humility that we take momentary  
128 pause to respectfully acknowledge the enduring legacy of Mrs.  
129 Daniel, whose life, like an ember within a glowing ceremonial  
130 flame in the pomp and circumstance of sacred tribal consecration,  
131 leapt and danced in ritualistic form to the night wind's time and  
132 cadence, before yielding itself to the kindred spirits at the  
133 glimmer of a new dawn:

134           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
135 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby mourn the loss and commemorate the  
136 life and legacy of Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Daniel, whose life was a  
137 fragrant rose adorning the Heavenly Father's botanical garden of  
138 this earth's mortal dressing room, permeating the atmosphere with  
139 her beauty and aroma, and express sincere and deepest sympathy to  
140 her family and friends upon her passing.



141 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
142 the family of Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Daniel and made available to the  
143 Capitol Press Corps.

