

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.

