

By: The Entire Membership

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 10

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE
2 HONORABLE AND DISTINGUISHED GENTLEMAN FROM LAFAYETTE COUNTY,
3 FORMER REPRESENTATIVE NOAL AKINS, AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY
4 TO HIS FAMILY, FRIENDS AND COMMUNITY UPON HIS PASSING.

5 WHEREAS, it is written in Ecclesiastes 3:1 that "To
6 everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under
7 the Heaven," and as such, on October 30, 2022, the immaculate
8 author and finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal
9 presence of the honorable and distinguished Gentleman from
10 Lafayette County, former Representative Noal Akins, who
11 represented House District 12, to eternal rest, rendering great
12 sorrow and loss to his family, friends and community; and

13 WHEREAS, the community of Oxford, Mississippi, lost a
14 wonderful friend with the passing of Representative Akins, and
15 there is now a hush in our hearts as we come together to pay our
16 respects to the memory of one who has been called to join that
17 innumerable heavenly caravan; and

18 WHEREAS, born on August 21, 1938, to Mr. Noal and Mrs. Opal
19 Akins, in Tippah County, Mississippi, Representative Akins' early



20 years as the eldest of ten children prepared him for a future of
21 serving on teams throughout his life; and

22 WHEREAS, a graduate of Buena Vista High School, Northeast
23 Community College and Delta State University, Representative Akins
24 played basketball at each level and could be heard chuckling
25 softly when reviewing the box scores of the state basketball
26 tournament when he was assured his record for most points scored
27 in the state championship game had not been eclipsed, and he later
28 received his master's degree in education from the University of
29 Mississippi, which propelled him into a career of giving of
30 himself to others as a teacher and coach; and

31 WHEREAS, continuing his outstanding service to the State of
32 Mississippi, Representative Akins served on another team in the
33 Mississippi National Guard; and

34 WHEREAS, Representative Akins' love for basketball thrust him
35 to begin a career of coaching and education administration after
36 graduating from college, and he coached teams at Walnut High
37 School, Pontotoc High School, Marshall Academy, and Northwest and
38 Northeast Community Colleges, and his teams won numerous district
39 and state championships, which he later claimed were attained
40 despite his presence on the sideline; and

41 WHEREAS, while in his first coaching job at Walnut High
42 School, Representative Akins met his late wife, Joyce Graham, and
43 he found himself a part of another team with Joyce, but discovered



44 that you are not the captain on every team you join, and they were
45 married until Joyce's passing in 1991; and

46 WHEREAS, it was the relationships that Representative Akins
47 shared with his former players and students, and their parents
48 that provided him the greatest delight during his later years, and
49 he found increasing happiness in telling stories of the kids he
50 loved so dearly and the goals and aspirations that they had
51 achieved; and

52 WHEREAS, after coaching, Representative Akins started a
53 business team, by developing a successful business that provided
54 brick for numerous projects and homes in Mississippi, and any trip
55 with him, much to the chagrin of his granddaughter, would include
56 him pointing out any bricks he provided, the name and manufacturer
57 of the bricks, where the dirt was from that made the bricks, and
58 most importantly to him, a story of the people who lived inside
59 the walls, and all drives would include how the area related to
60 important points in Mississippi history, a topic he enjoyed
61 discussing as he truly loved Mississippi and her people; and

62 WHEREAS, after selling his brick company, Representative
63 Akins retired, and in "retirement" he, with others, helped to
64 establish Oxford University Bank, which he supported by serving on
65 the board of directors for many years, and retirement also
66 included joining another team, as he campaigned and was
67 successfully elected to the Mississippi House of Representatives,
68 where he faithfully served two terms in the Mississippi



69 Legislature from 2004 until 2012, representing Oxford and its
70 surrounding communities; and

71 WHEREAS, during his distinguished tenure as a legislator,
72 Representative Akins served on the following committees:
73 Education, Judiciary B, Judiciary En Banc, Juvenile Justice and
74 Universities and Colleges; and

75 WHEREAS, Representative Akins often spoke of the legislative
76 process as being an ultimate "team sport," and he took great pride
77 in finding common ground with colleagues, worked hard to gain the
78 trust of those on both sides of the aisle, loved the debate,
79 collegiality and the opportunity to help others, and prided
80 himself on being a voice for reason, as he felt a responsibility
81 to those in our state that needed a hand up because it was always
82 the right thing to do; and

83 WHEREAS, though he has traversed life's river to now stand
84 upon the celestial shores in wonderment of Heaven's grandeur in
85 glorious reunion with the kindred spirits who transitioned before
86 him, including his parents, Mr. Noal and Mrs. Opal Akins; wife,
87 Joyce Akins; sisters, Mary Wilkerson and Nancy Akins; and brother,
88 Benny Akins; the legacy of Representative Akins' indelible imprint
89 upon our lives will continue to refresh the hearts and fond
90 memories of his loved ones, including his daughter, Senator Nicole
91 Akins Boyd, and her husband Daniel Boyd; granddaughter, Isabelle
92 Boyd; grandson, Speight Boyd; sisters, Lillian Smith, Judy Holland



93 and Penny Daniels; brothers, Mike Akins, Randy Akins and Terry
94 Akins; and a host of other relatives and dear friends; and

95 WHEREAS, Representative Akins will forever be loved,
96 cherished and missed by all who knew him, and since it is written
97 in 2 Corinthians 5:8, that to be "absent from the body is to be
98 present with the Lord," his family and friends can find peace and
99 comfort during this difficult time; and

100 WHEREAS, a genuine man of exceptional character,
101 Representative Akins' outstanding legacy will continue for
102 generations to come, and precious memories of time spent with him
103 will hopefully continue to provide warmth, peace and comfort to
104 his loved ones; and

105 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to honor the
106 indelible legacy of remarkable service of our former colleague and
107 friend, Representative Akins, who represented his district, this
108 body and the people of this state with honor and dignity, and
109 whose monumental life of a genuine selflessness illuminated the
110 path of hope for all he encountered along this earthly sojourn:

111 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
112 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
113 THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the esteemed and laudable
114 legislative career and public service and mourn the loss of the
115 most honorable, distinguished Gentleman from Lafayette County,
116 former Representative Noal Akins, and express sincere and deepest
117 sympathy to his family and friends upon his passing.



118 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
119 furnished to the family of former Representative Noal Akins, and
120 to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

