

By: Representative Sanford

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 23

1 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. NORMAN  
2 GOETZMANN STEVENS, JR., AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS  
3 FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, it is written in Ecclesiastes 3:1 that "To  
5 everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under  
6 the Heaven," and as such, on April 24, 2022, the immaculate author  
7 and finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal presence of  
8 dearly beloved, Mr. Norman Goetzmann Stevens, Jr., of Mount Olive,  
9 Mississippi, to eternal rest, rendering great sorrow and loss to  
10 his family, friends and community; and

11 WHEREAS, born on June 11, 1931, in Picayune, Mississippi, to  
12 Mr. Norman Goetzmann Stevens, Sr., and Mrs. Fern Anderson Stevens,  
13 loving parents who laid a fine foundation for a remarkable life,  
14 Mr. Stevens grew up in Picayune and spoke fondly of his days there  
15 as a child, including riding with the engineer in the Crosby steam  
16 engine as it carried logs between the mill and the mill pond,  
17 untold hours at the YMCA, where he was when news of Pearl Harbor  
18 came, and fishing on the Hobolochitto with his dad; and



19           WHEREAS, Mr. Stevens became a gifted athlete at Picayune High  
20 School in multiple sports, leading the football team to a state  
21 championship in 1948, and because of his outstanding athleticism,  
22 he was a highly recruited quarterback, and like his father before  
23 him, who was Louisiana State University's last four sport  
24 letterman, he became a Bengal Tiger, one of the few father-son  
25 combos in LSU football history, and while there, he played the  
26 seasons of 1950 through 1953, and was named the MVP his senior  
27 season; and

28           WHEREAS, while at LSU, Mr. Stevens met his beloved future  
29 bride, Ms. Martha Sue "Mossy" Blain, a cheerleader who rode atop  
30 the tiger cage into Tiger Stadium for each home game, and they  
31 married December 20, 1952; and

32           WHEREAS, upon graduation, Mr. Stevens took a position with a  
33 Picayune bank, but soon received a draft notice, and the United  
34 States Air Force assigned him to Keesler Air Force Base, where the  
35 base commander wanted him to coach and play for the base football  
36 team, and while there, he was promoted to First Lieutenant and was  
37 ultimately, as a 24-year-old, in command of over 600 men training  
38 as radar operators; and

39           WHEREAS, after his time in the Air Force, Mr. Stevens joined  
40 his father-in-law's company, Blain Construction Company of Mount  
41 Olive, Mississippi, and helped build an outstanding company that  
42 endured well into a third generation; and



43           WHEREAS, Mr. Stevens had a decades long career in the highway  
44 construction and materials business and was a part of building  
45 many of the major highways and interstates across Mississippi and  
46 bordering states; and

47           WHEREAS, Mr. Stevens was well respected by his peers, known  
48 for his honest dealings and forward-thinking practices, and served  
49 in leadership positions on many industry boards on a state and  
50 national basis, as well as numerous local civic and philanthropic  
51 boards; and

52           WHEREAS, in one of the defining moments of his life, as a  
53 young father of three children, Mr. Stevens suddenly lost his  
54 beloved Martha Sue in 1965, but by the grace of God, he weathered  
55 this heartache, and married the second love of his life, Ms.  
56 Elizabeth "Beth" Wagner, on January 11, 1969, thereby becoming  
57 father to two more beloved children, and there has never been a  
58 more complete melding of two families into one; and

59           WHEREAS, in a second defining moment, Beth was diagnosed with  
60 advanced ovarian cancer in August 2000, and Mr. Stevens  
61 immediately retired from his work and devoted the next ten years  
62 to walking side-by-side with her through a long and arduous  
63 chemotherapy journey, and they were married for 42 years, and he  
64 loved her fiercely till the end; and

65           WHEREAS, dedicated to his faith, Mr. Stevens was a devout  
66 follower of Jesus, and for decades, he daily rose before the sun  
67 to extensively study his Bible and pray, leaving behind volumes of



68 daily study notes and, more importantly, leaving an example of  
69 loving and living in harmony with his fellowman; and

70 WHEREAS, Mr. Stevens served as presiding elder for Mount  
71 Olive Presbyterian Church and dearly loved his church family and  
72 pastors, and his legacy of faith is plainly revealed by the faith  
73 of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and by the  
74 steadfast way in which he lived his life in moments of testing;  
75 and

76 WHEREAS, though he has traversed the river of life to reunite  
77 with those who answered God's summons to life eternal and now  
78 beckon his arrival to the celestial shores of Heaven's grandeur,  
79 such as his two wonderful and loving wives, who he often said he  
80 longed to join in Heaven, as he will be laid to rest between them,  
81 the legacy of Mr. Stevens' indelible imprint upon our lives will  
82 continue to refresh the hearts and fond memories of his loved  
83 ones, including his sister, Suzanne "Suzie" Stevens Redd;  
84 daughter, Susan Stevens Shuler and husband, Conrad; son, Norman  
85 Goetzmann Stevens, III, and wife, Joy; daughter, Martha Stevens  
86 McIntosh and husband, Mark; daughter and faithful caregiver, Kevin  
87 Stevens Lowrey, along with husband and primary caregiver, Perrin;  
88 son, Robert Lee Stevens and wife, Eva; grandchildren, Conrad,  
89 Stevens, Annie Kate, Sarah, Jenny, Will, John Mark, Mamie, Lizzie,  
90 John Madison, Justice, Brittny, Erin, Emelie, Jed, Ben and Sam; 21  
91 great-grandchildren (including two in utero); and a host of nieces



92 and nephews, great-nieces and nephews, cousins, other relatives  
93 and dear friends; and

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

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

104 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
105 recognize and honor the lives of great Mississippians, especially  
106 those such as Mr. Stevens, a man whose life's light illuminated  
107 the path of hope for all he encountered along this earthly  
108 sojourn:

109 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
110 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
111 mourn the loss and honor the life and legacy of Mr. Norman  
112 Goetzmann Stevens, Jr., and express deepest sympathy to his family  
113 and friends upon his passing.

114 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
115 furnished to the family of Mr. Norman Goetzmann Stevens, Jr., and  
116 to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

