

By: Representatives Currie, Mangold

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 32

1 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. CECIL
2 RHODES, AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS
3 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 January 1, 2023, the immaculate
7 author and finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal
8 presence of dearly beloved, Mr. Cecil Rhodes, of Brookhaven,
9 Mississippi, to eternal rest, rendering great sorrow and loss to
10 his family, friends and community; and

11 WHEREAS, born on September 6, 1920, in Neshoba County,
12 Mississippi, to Mr. Ben and Mrs. Cola Breland Rhodes, Mr. Rhodes
13 was a member of First Baptist Church of Brookhaven for 73 years,
14 where he served as a deacon and a Sunday School teacher; and

15 WHEREAS, outside of his outstanding military service in World
16 War II, Mr. Rhodes worked for many years as a sanitarian with the
17 Mississippi State Board of Health; and



18 WHEREAS, Mr. Rhodes surrendered his life to Jesus more than
19 nine decades ago, and was baptized in a neighbor's cow pond, after
20 they had chased the cows out of it, and his relationship with God
21 was his greatest blessing, and as he was surrounded by some of his
22 family the day before his last birthday, Mr. Rhodes was happy, and
23 stated: "The Lord has just taken care of me. Through the years I
24 have just been blessed so much"; and

25 WHEREAS, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Rhodes was often
26 seen at various events around town, at his church home at First
27 Baptist Brookhaven, or sharing coffee and conversation with his
28 buddies at Burger King, and he would have his wooden cane and be
29 wearing a World War II veteran's cap and a near-perpetual smile;
30 and

31 WHEREAS, Mr. Rhodes greatly enjoyed reading a chapter of the
32 Bible each morning, followed by a trip outdoors to "walk back and
33 forth to get these legs limber," he said, and he also enjoyed
34 growing tomatoes, watermelon, and squash in his garden; and

35 WHEREAS, Mr. Rhodes enjoyed visiting with friends, as he
36 would mount his motorized scooter and scoot around his
37 neighborhood, visiting with people who were either already
38 outside, or who came out to greet him, and he also enjoyed
39 watching sports, such as the Atlanta Braves during baseball
40 season, and when it was football season, he would watch a lot of
41 football games as well; and



WHEREAS, though he has traversed the river of life to reunite with those who answered God's summons to life eternal and now beckon his arrival to the celestial shores of Heaven's grandeur, such as his parents, Mr. Ben and Mrs. Cola Breland Rhodes; wife, Mrs. Olivia Chaney Rhodes; brothers, Hayes Rhodes, Reid Rhodes and Walter Franklin (Mutt) Rhodes; and sister, Selma Rushing; the legacy of Mr. Rhodes' indelible imprint upon our lives will continue to refresh the hearts and fond memories of his loved ones, including his daughter, Sheila Turnage; son, Byron Rhodes; sisters, Lee Pendergrass and Zula Shackelford; grandchildren, Matthew Turnage, Terri Irons and Marc Turnage; great-grandchildren, Cecilia, William, Drew, Meredith, Jackson and Bailey; and a host of other relatives and dear friends; and

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

WHEREAS, a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend, Mr. Rhodes will forever be loved, cherished and missed by all who knew him, and since it is written in 2 Corinthians 5:8, that to be "absent from the body is to be present with the Lord," his family and friends can find peace and comfort during this difficult time; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rhodes' legacy is a strong and free Mississippi and United States of America, and for his selfless heroic military



67 service, a grateful nation and state thank him, and it is the
68 policy of the House of Representatives to recognize and honor the
69 lives of great Mississippians, especially those such as Mr.
70 Rhodes, a wonderful man whose life's light illuminated the path of
71 hope for all he encountered along this earthly sojourn:

72 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
73 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
74 mourn the loss and honor the life and legacy of Mr. Cecil Rhodes,
75 and express deepest sympathy to his family and friends upon his
76 passing.

77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
78 furnished to the family of Mr. Cecil Rhodes, and to the members of
79 the Capitol Press Corps.

