

By: Representative Wallace

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 40

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND
2 LEGACY OF MR. WILLIS JOE BARNES.

3 WHEREAS, it is written in Ecclesiastes 3:1 that "To
4 everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under
5 the Heaven," and as such, on January 11, 2023, the immaculate
6 author and finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal
7 presence of dearly beloved, Mr. Willis Joe Barnes, to eternal
8 rest, rendering great sorrow and loss to his family, friends and
9 community; and

10 WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi and the City of Magee,
11 Mississippi, lost a wonderful friend and a loving husband, father
12 and grandfather with the passing of Mr. Barnes, who was born on
13 October 18, 1939, to Robert S. Barnes and Mattye Laura Berry in
14 Winnsboro, Louisiana, and there is now a hush in our hearts as we
15 come together to pay our respects to the memory of one who has
16 been called to join that innumerable heavenly caravan; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Barnes graduated from Magee High School in 1958
18 and furthered his education at the University of Southern



19 Mississippi in 1963, and while he was in college, he exchanged the
20 vows of holy matrimony with his high school sweetheart and the
21 love of his life, Mrs. Joyce Walker Barnes, on June 6, 1960, and
22 they raised three beautiful children together, Robbie, Angie and
23 Sandie; and

24 WHEREAS, after graduating from Southern Mississippi, Mr.
25 Barnes began his career with International Harvester in 1964, and
26 in November 1968, Mr. and Mrs. Barnes opened an independent
27 catalog merchant store with the Sears & Roebuck Company in Magee
28 and ran the Sears store together until April 1993; and

29 WHEREAS, after the Sears store closed, Mr. Barnes began
30 working with the Simpson County School District, where he
31 eventually retired in November 2017, after 20 years of service as
32 a bus driver and then a courier; and

33 WHEREAS, Mr. Barnes loved spending time with his family,
34 making it a tradition to take a vacation every year with his wife
35 and children, and in later years, he took his grandchildren and
36 great-grandchildren on many adventures; and

37 WHEREAS, in his spare time, Mr. Barnes loved reading,
38 hunting, spending time outdoors, telling stories of history and of
39 his family, and riding his motorcycle throughout the American
40 West, which led to his most memorable trip when he met Robert
41 Redford, and he was also an active member of FBC Magee, where he
42 was especially involved with the church brotherhood who would take



43 mission trips every year to build churches and minister to others;
44 and

45 WHEREAS, the memory of Mr. Barnes, a man held in the highest
46 regard by friends and family as an inspiring and precious gift
47 from God, will continue to refresh the hearts and memories of his
48 beloved survivors: his loving wife of 63 years, Mrs. Joyce Walker
49 Barnes; children, Robbie Barnes (Melissa), Angie Barnes and Sandie
50 Barnes Winters (Stephens); brother-in-law, Otto Walker and his
51 family; sister-in-law, Faye Tew and family; grandchildren,
52 LauraLyn Barnes Barr, Whitney Barnes Baker (Brad), Hamilton
53 Winters (Alix), Hollin Winters and Hallie Winters;
54 great-grandchildren, Kaylea Barr, Meredith Barr, Sutton Barr,
55 Laura James Baker, Barnes Baker and Kadie Ruth Baker; and a host
56 of other relatives and friends; and

57 WHEREAS, we encourage the family to find solace from the
58 overwhelming sadness created by the earthly departure of their
59 beloved family member in Revelation 21:4, wherein is recorded,
60 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there
61 shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall
62 there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" and
63 renewed in their faith that Mr. Barnes fulfilled the commandment
64 of II Timothy 4:7 by having "fought a good fight, finishing his
65 course and keeping the faith until the hour of his departure was
66 at hand"; and



67 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
68 recognize and honor the lives of fine Mississippians, especially
69 those such as Mr. Willis Joe Barnes, a gracious man who loved his
70 family, friends and community unconditionally, bringing glory and
71 honor to the State of Mississippi:

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 commemorate the life and legacy of Mr. Willis
75 Joe Barnes, and express deepest sympathy to his family and friends
76 upon his passing.

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

