

By: Representative Clarke

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 67

1 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. CLARISSA  
2 GRIFFIN HARRIS, AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER FAMILY AND  
3 FRIENDS UPON HER 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 February 5, 2023, the immaculate  
7 author and finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal  
8 presence of dearly beloved, Mrs. Clarissa Griffin Harris, to  
9 eternal rest, rendering great sorrow and loss to her family,  
10 friends and community; and

11 WHEREAS, born on April 18, 1944, to Mr. Clarence and Mrs.  
12 Annie Worsham Griffin, Mrs. Harris grew up in the Deovelente  
13 Community of Belzoni, Mississippi, and there she attended Shiloh  
14 M.B. Church, the place where she first became a believer, by  
15 faith, received Christ as her personal savior and devoted her life  
16 to be more like Him; and



17           WHEREAS, Mrs. Harris was a 1961 graduate of McNair High  
18 School, and upon graduating, she attended Tougaloo College, where  
19 she received a bachelor's degree in elementary education; and

20           WHEREAS, in 1965, Mrs. Harris married Mr. Norman W. Neal,  
21 Sr., and to this union four children were born, Keith Lenore, who  
22 proceeded her in death shortly after birth, Charisse, Chandra and  
23 Norma, and in 1984, true love struck once again and she united in  
24 holy matrimony to Mr. Robert Lee Harris, Sr., and this union  
25 created a blended family adding two step-sons, Robert Harris, Jr.,  
26 and Kelvin Pool as her bonus children; and

27           WHEREAS, Mrs. Harris utilized her degree in education,  
28 serving in various capacities within the educational field, and  
29 she began her teaching career as a kindergarten teacher in  
30 Hollandale, Mississippi, and continued her career as a teacher in  
31 Memphis, Tennessee and Belzoni, Mississippi, retiring in 2015  
32 after over 35 years of service, teaching, touching and changing  
33 lives; and

34           WHEREAS, upon retirement, Mrs. Harris decided to fulfill a  
35 life-long dream of opening a daycare, and with the help of her  
36 daughter, Chandra, she launched the opening of Leaps and Bounds  
37 Early Learning Academy, where she continued to "reach one, teach  
38 one" until her passing; and

39           WHEREAS, at an early age, Mrs. Harris' parents recognized her  
40 God-given talent for music, and she learned to play several  
41 instruments, including the violin, piano, and organ, and as a



42 little girl whose feet could not touch the peddles of the piano,  
43 she served as the church pianist, and during her young adult  
44 years, she also served as a soloist, choir member, choir  
45 directress and church musician for many churches in the Humphreys  
46 County Community; and

47 WHEREAS, in 1978, Mrs. Harris, Shirlene Davis Reed, Wardell  
48 Walton, and the late Homer Body brought to fruition the desire to  
49 organize a community choir that would be comprised of singers of  
50 all denominations and faith to sing praises to the Lord, and The  
51 All Faith Gospel Community Choir was birthed, and later, she would  
52 become the musician for The Humphreys County Laymen Male Chorus,  
53 and served as the Shiloh M.B. Church musician until the world was  
54 changed by the restrictions of the pandemic; and

55 WHEREAS, though she has traversed the river of life to  
56 reunite with those who answered God's summons to life eternal and  
57 now beckon her arrival to the celestial shores of Heaven's  
58 grandeur, the legacy of Mrs. Harris' indelible imprint upon our  
59 lives will continue to refresh the hearts and fond memories of her  
60 loved ones, including her daughters, Charisse Neal Baker, Norma  
61 Neal and Chandra Neal Wilder; sister, Doris Griffin Reed; sister-  
62 in-love, Annie Grace Griffin; step-sons, Robert Lee Harris and  
63 Kelvin Pool; bonus children, Latosha Neal, Brandon Neal, and  
64 Carlando Neal; grandchildren, Jelisa, De'Kuan, Jasmine, Kelsey,  
65 Chelsey, Jarmyn, Joslyn, Chamar and Keirstin; six great-  
66 grandchildren, Donylen, Kylan, Briylon, Avari, Ian and Skyler; two



67 life-long friends of over 43 years, Shirlene Reed and Wardell  
68 Walton; two children she loved as her own grandchildren, Dexter  
69 Tardy and Andreia Scrivens; and a village of nieces, nephews,  
70 cousins, other relatives, dear friends, students, parents and  
71 other community members; and

72 WHEREAS, Mrs. Harris will forever be loved, cherished and  
73 missed by all who knew her, and since it is written in 2  
74 Corinthians 5:8, that to be "absent from the body is to be present  
75 with the Lord," her family and friends can find peace and comfort  
76 during this difficult time; and

77 WHEREAS, a genuine and lovely lady of exceptional character,  
78 who had an infectious, loving spirit, and a kind and selfless  
79 heart, Mrs. Harris' outstanding legacy will continue for  
80 generations to come, and precious memories of time spent with her  
81 will hopefully continue to provide warmth, peace and comfort to  
82 her loved ones; and

83 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
84 recognize and honor the lives of exceptional individuals,  
85 especially those such as Mrs. Harris, a wonderful lady whose  
86 life's light illuminated the path of hope for all she encountered  
87 along this earthly sojourn:

88 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
89 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
90 mourn the loss and honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Clarissa



91 Griffin Harris, and express deepest sympathy to her family and  
92 friends upon her passing.

93 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
94 furnished to the family of Mrs. Clarissa Griffin Harris, and to  
95 the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

