

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.

