

By: Representatives Sanders, Blackmon,
Karriem, Osborne, Taylor

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 69

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND
2 LEGACY OF JOSEPH GRAFTON BARNES, AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY
3 TO HIS 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, the immaculate author and finisher of
7 our soul's destiny summoned the mortal presence of dearly beloved,
8 Joseph Grafton Barnes, to eternal rest on Friday, January 27,
9 2023, at the blessed age of 103 years, rendering immense heartache
10 and loss to his family, friends and community; and

11 WHEREAS, the Rosedale Community of Bolivar County and the
12 State of Mississippi lost a loving father, wonderful friend,
13 community treasure and World War II veteran with the passing of
14 Mr. Barnes, who was born on July 20, 1919, to the late Mr. Preston
15 Barnes and Mrs. Myrtle Barnes in Carthage, Mississippi, and there
16 is now a hush in our hearts as we come together to pay our
17 respects to the memory of one who has been called to join that
18 innumerable heavenly caravan; and



19 WHEREAS, after graduating from high school in Carthage, Mr.
20 Barnes answered Uncle Sam's call to serve and defend the interest
21 of liberty and principles of democracy afforded us as citizens of
22 this great nation by joining the United States Army, wherein he
23 devoted six years in service during World War II, where he
24 participated in the invasion of Italy and southern France; and

25 WHEREAS, having been wounded in action, Mr. Barnes spent 33
26 months in Army hospitals in various locations, and was awarded the
27 Purple Heart for injuries received in the line of duty, the Combat
28 Infantry Badge, and several other medals including the Bronze Star
29 for gallantry in action, becoming one of the first members of his
30 battalion to receive a battlefield commission during his time on
31 the front lines, before concluding his Army career as a 1st
32 Lieutenant; and

33 WHEREAS, it was during his time abroad in service to this
34 great nation that, while recuperating from wartime injuries, he
35 met and married his first love, an Army nurse and 1st Lieutenant,
36 Dorothy Kern, with whom he would spend 42 years in unity of holy
37 matrimony with the addition of two daughters, Linda Wilfling and
38 Julie Brown, before her presence was requested within the inner
39 courts of Heaven in 1989; and

40 WHEREAS, upon his return to civilian life, Mr. Barnes
41 attended Mississippi State University where he received his
42 bachelor's degree in education in 1948, and subsequently
43 matriculated through the university's graduate program to attain



44 his master's degree, in addition to undertaking post-graduate
45 coursework in education administration, devoting 33 years as a
46 highly revered educator; a teacher, principal and eventually
47 superintendent of education, with his final 19 years spent in
48 Rosedale before his retirement in 1982; and

49 WHEREAS, raised by his parents on the precepts of Christian
50 servanthood and humility, Mr. Barnes, who was baptized into
51 kingdom fellowship under these godly tenets and during his adult
52 life, he became an active member of Rosedale Methodist Church, and
53 lived a life of service through active involvement in civic
54 affairs, including service as: Chairman of the nonprofit Levee
55 Street Clinic Board; Chairman of the Rosedale Election Committee;
56 member of the Board of Directors of the First National Bank of
57 Rosedale; President of the Rosedale Lions Club and Rosedale Rotary
58 Club; and in 2017 received the highest award given by the
59 Daughters of the American Revolution for valor, service and
60 sacrifice; and

61 WHEREAS, as fate would lend itself to following the divine
62 blueprint of his life as designed by the grand architect of all
63 creation, after Mr. Barnes' first wife, Dottie, yielded her life
64 to the spirit realm, God would allow his heart to heal and
65 experience love again, through the life, presence and compassion
66 of Gladys Morgan Welshans, with whom he would spend the next 32
67 years of his life, and further expand the footprint of his family



68 with the addition of Gladys' two children, Carolyn Welshans and Al
69 Welshans, who affectionately referred to him as "Daddy Joe"; and

70 WHEREAS, one who enjoyed spending quality time with his
71 family and many good friends, woodworking and gardening, Mr.
72 Barnes also enjoyed traveling, which afforded him the opportunity
73 to revisit some of the sites he had seen during World War II
74 during a trip to Italy, and travels to Japan blessed him with the
75 gift of visiting his oldest daughter and her family; and

76 WHEREAS, though he has traversed the river of life to now
77 stand upon the celestial shore of Heaven, in joyous reunion with
78 those who made life's transition before him, the enduring legacy
79 of Mr. Barnes will continue to refresh the hearts and memories of
80 his beloved survivors: wife, Gladys Morgan Welshans Barnes;
81 children, Linda Wilfling, Julie Brown (Mike) and Al Welshans
82 (Suzanne); grandchildren, Jennifer Hammons (Josh), Ashley Stogner
83 (Shane), Marcus Schlansker (Lauren) and Michael Brown (Claudia);
84 several great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and
85 friends; and

86 WHEREAS, we encourage the family to find solace from the
87 overwhelming sadness created by the earthly departure of their
88 beloved family member in Revelation 21:4, wherein is recorded,
89 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there
90 shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall
91 there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" and
92 renewed in their faith that Mr. Barnes fulfilled the commandment



93 of II Timothy 4:7 by having "fought a good fight, finishing his
94 course and keeping the faith until the hour of his departure was
95 at hand"; and

96 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
97 recognize and honor the lives of upstanding Mississippians,
98 especially those of patriotic and selfless public service and
99 spiritual servitude such as Mr. Barnes, a gracious man who loved
100 his family and friends unconditionally and worshipped the Lord God
101 Almighty with all of his heart and soul:

102 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
103 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
104 mourn the loss and commemorate the life and legacy of Mr. Joseph
105 Grafton Barnes, and express deepest sympathy to his family and
106 friends upon his passing.

107 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
108 furnished to the family of Mr. Joseph Grafton Barnes and to the
109 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

