

By: Representatives Creekmore IV,
Massengill, Steverson

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 91

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND
2 LEGACY OF COACH NORRIS RAY ASHLEY, 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 Coach Norris Ray Ashley, to eternal rest on Friday, February 17,
9 2023, rendering immense heartache and loss to his family, friends
10 and community; and

11 WHEREAS, the Ingomar and Lone Star communities of Union
12 County and the State of Mississippi, lost a loving husband,
13 father, mentor, teacher, wonderful friend and legendary basketball
14 coach, with the passing of Coach Ashley, who was born on August 3,
15 1947, to the late Mr. W.D. (Bill) and Bertha Murphree Ashley, the
16 youngest of the couple's five children, and there is now a hush in
17 our hearts as we come together to pay our respects to the memory



18 of one who has been called to join that innumerable heavenly
19 caravan; and

20 WHEREAS, having commenced his formal education in the first
21 grade at the early age of four at Lone Star School, Coach Norris
22 would go on to graduate from Ingomar High School at the age of 16
23 before continuing his collegiate matriculation at Delta State
24 University, where he received his degree in education and lettered
25 in basketball and baseball under legendary baseball coach, Dave
26 "Boo" Ferris, and later inducted into the Delta State Athletic
27 Hall of Fame; and

28 WHEREAS, Coach Norris began his career in education at
29 Coahoma County High School, where he taught and coached for two
30 years before returning to his high school alma mater, where he
31 remained until his retirement in 2012, after amassing 1,697 wins
32 as coach of Ingomar High School girls and boys basketball teams,
33 earning him the revered title of Winningest Basketball Coach over
34 the course of his 41 years of coaching tenure, complete with nine
35 state championships (five boys and four girls), a Grand Slam
36 championship in 1978 and a recent induction into the Mississippi
37 Association of Coaches Hall of Fame; and

38 WHEREAS, Coach Norris's fate would lend itself to the
39 building upon the blueprint divinely designed for the pattern of
40 his life by the Great Deity when his love, chivalry and affection
41 pierced the heart of the former Miss Patricia "Pat" Robertson,
42 and the duo became bone of one another's bone and flesh of one



43 another's flesh after exchanging the nuptials of holy matrimony on
44 June 15, 1974, building a lifetime of memories endeared with the
45 blessing of three children; and

46 WHEREAS, raised by his parents on the precepts of Christian
47 servanthood and humility, Coach Ashley, who was baptized into
48 kingdom fellowship under these godly tenets and during his adult
49 life, he became a member of Shady Grove Baptist Church, but
50 attended Ingomar Methodist Church with his family, and lived a
51 life of service through active involvement in community civic and
52 social affairs; and

53 WHEREAS, though he has traversed the river of life to now
54 stand upon the celestial shore of Heaven, in joyous reunion with
55 those who made life's transition before him, including his
56 parents, brother, Rex Lewayne Ashley and sister, Joann Ashley
57 Williams, the enduring legacy of Coach Ashley will continue to
58 refresh the hearts and memories of his beloved survivors: loving
59 wife of 48 years, Patricia Robertson Ashley; children, Kellan
60 Elizabeth Ashley, Jonathan Lehman Ashley and Kerrienne Ashley;
61 sisters, Nell Sandroni and Lazette Stevens (Earl); sister-in-law
62 Dorothy Ashley; three precious grandchildren, Rivers Grace Ashley,
63 Willa Kate Ashley and Penn Lehman Ashley; and a host of other
64 relatives and friends; and

65 WHEREAS, we encourage the family to find solace from the
66 overwhelming sadness created by the earthly departure of their
67 beloved family member in Revelation 21:4, wherein it is recorded,



68 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there
69 shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall
70 there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" and
71 renewed in their faith that Coach Ashley fulfilled the commandment
72 of II Timothy 4:7 by having "fought a good fight, finishing his
73 course and keeping the faith until the hour of his departure was
74 at hand"; and

75 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
76 recognize and honor the lives of upstanding Mississippians,
77 especially those of Coach Ashley's caliber, whose life and
78 presence made a profound, lasting and positive impact in the lives
79 of the countless students and athletes and their families with
80 whom he connected over the course of a four-decade career in
81 education:

82 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
83 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
84 mourn the loss and commemorate the life and legacy of Coach Norris
85 Ray Ashley, and express deepest sympathy to his family and friends
86 upon his passing.

87 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
88 furnished to the family of Coach Norris Ray Ashley and to the
89 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

