

By: Representative Robinson

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 99

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND
2 LEGACY OF MRS. MARY JO MORGAN WEDGEWORTH.

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 April 15, 2022, the immaculate author
6 and finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal presence of
7 dearly beloved, Mrs. Mary Jo Wedgeworth, to eternal rest,
8 rendering great sorrow and loss to her family and friends; and

9 WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi and the City of Laurel lost
10 a wonderful friend, loving mother and grandmother and dedicated
11 community leader with the passing of Mrs. Wedgeworth, who was born
12 on December 30, 1924, to the late Thomas and Emmie Jo Meeks
13 Morgan, and there is now a hush in our hearts as we come together
14 to pay our respects to the memory of one who has been called to
15 join that innumerable heavenly caravan; and

16 WHEREAS, Mary Jo Wedgeworth was a woman of uncompromised
17 faith and a member of First Baptist Church, where she was active
18 in women's programs and Sunday School and enjoyed providing



19 beautiful flower arrangements with cuttings from her garden for
20 church events, and she now enjoys the eternal peace described in
21 Luke 2:29, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in
22 peace, according to your word"; and

23 WHEREAS, Mrs. Wedgeworth exchanged the vows of holy matrimony
24 with her beloved, Mr. Hilman Wedgeworth, and they completed their
25 family unit with the addition of three beautiful children and
26 remained devoted to one another for 67 years until Mr.
27 Wedgeworth's passing in 2013; and

28 WHEREAS, during her youth, Mrs. Wedgeworth was the 1944
29 Winner of the National 4-H Club Girl Achievement Award and the
30 President's trophy, which was awarded to her at the National 4-H
31 Club Congress in Chicago, Illinois, and throughout her life, she
32 continued to be an active participant in Mississippi 4-H Club
33 programs, serving in numerous leadership roles and always serving
34 as a local 4-H Club leader as well as serving on the Mississippi
35 4-H Club board and as president of the Mississippi Extension
36 Service Homemakers and FCE Club; and

37 WHEREAS, in addition to the 4-H Club, Mrs. Wedgeworth was
38 active in the Waynesboro Drive Garden Club, the Mississippi
39 Council of Garden Clubs serving as president, the Deep South
40 Garden Club Council, and as a nationally accredited flower show
41 judge, as she was known for her entertaining and educational
42 programs on flower arranging, gardening and recycling; and



43 WHEREAS, in 1967, she was honored by Keep America Beautiful
44 with their lifetime achievement award for her exceptional efforts
45 to keep our nation beautiful, which included working to develop
46 the Avenue of Magnolias at each of Mississippi's interstate state
47 line entrances and also the garden club wildflower program, and in
48 1976, Mrs. Wedgeworth was honored with the Mississippi Volunteer
49 Activist award for the thousands of hours she gave in volunteer
50 service to her community; and

51 WHEREAS, Mrs. Wedgeworth's desire to leave things better than
52 she found them and her community activism began when she was young
53 and she would organize victory gardens to support America's effort
54 during World War II, and her lengthy volunteer service also
55 included numerous positions with the Jones County Republican
56 Party, chairmanships of both the Jones County Republican Women and
57 the Mississippi Republican Women; and

58 WHEREAS, when she was not tending to her garden or
59 volunteering in her community, Mrs. Wedgeworth was a docent for
60 the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, where she very much enjoyed
61 giving tours and teaching children about the collections held at
62 the museum, and for decades, she served on the board of the Red
63 Cross and always had helping hands to assist victims of hurricanes
64 and disasters who sought shelter from the storm, especially during
65 the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, when she and Mr. Wedgeworth
66 welcomed and served meals to hundreds who fled to the Red Cross
67 shelter in Laurel; and



68 WHEREAS, Mrs. Wedgeworth was a strong, loving and
69 compassionate wife, mother, grandmother, confidante and friend who
70 touched the lives of all those who crossed her sweet and charming
71 path, and her warm hugs, positive energy, contagious laughter and
72 bright smile will be forever cherished by her family, friends and
73 others who knew her and experienced her greatness; and

74 WHEREAS, the memory of Mrs. Wedgeworth, a woman held in the
75 highest regard by friends and family as an inspiring and precious
76 gift from God, will continue to refresh the hearts and memories of
77 her beloved survivors: children, James (Jane) Wedgeworth, Marsha
78 (Chuck) Blackburn and Karen Miller; grandchildren, Mary Morgan
79 (Paul) Ketchel, Chad (Hillary) Blackburn, Brandi Jane (Jason)
80 Graham, Marsha (Drew) Hunter, Chip (Madalyn) Wedgeworth, David
81 (Abbi) Wedgeworth and McKensie Miller; brothers, Howard (Eloise)
82 Morgan, Roy (Barbara) Morgan, Marion (Elaine) Morgan; 16
83 great-grandchildren; and a host of beloved nieces and nephews,
84 other relatives and friends; and

85 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
86 recognize and honor the lives of fine Mississippians, especially
87 those such as Mrs. Mary Jo Morgan Wedgeworth, a gracious woman who
88 loved her family and friends unconditionally and worshipped the
89 Lord God Almighty with all her heart and soul, bringing glory and
90 honor to the State of Mississippi:

91 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
92 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby



93 mourn the loss and commemorate the life and legacy of Mrs. Mary Jo
94 Morgan Wedgeworth, and express deepest sympathy to her family and
95 friends upon her passing.

96 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
97 furnished to the family of Mrs. Mary Jo Morgan Wedgeworth and to
98 the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

