

By: Representatives Osborne, Holloway

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 103

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND
2 LEGACY AND SERVICE OF VIETNAM WAR VETERAN, MR. CHARLES "CLIFF"
3 WILSON COLLINS, AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND
4 FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

5 WHEREAS, it is written in II Corinthians 4:17-18, "For our
6 light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far
7 more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at
8 the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen:
9 for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which
10 are not seen are eternal," and as such, the immaculate author and
11 finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal presence of
12 dearly beloved, Mr. Charles "Cliff" Wilson Collins to eternal rest
13 on Saturday, February 25, 2023, as he made life's final transition
14 from earthly travailing to heavenly reward, rendering great sorrow
15 and loss to his family and many friends; and

16 WHEREAS, the City of Greenwood and the entirety of Leflore
17 County, Mississippi, lost a revered community pillar, master
18 builder, innovator and craftsman with the passing of Mr. Collins,
19 born in Drew, Mississippi, on November 29, 1948, to the union of



20 his late parents, Mr. Dewitt Collins and Mrs. Beatrice Wilson
21 Collins, and there is now a hush in our hearts as we come together
22 to pay our respects to the memory of one who has been called to
23 join that innumerable heavenly caravan; and

24 WHEREAS, having grown up in Minter City, Mississippi, with 13
25 siblings, "Cliff," as he was affectionately called, enjoyed the
26 "country boy" lifestyle, working on the family farm, having fun
27 with cousins and neighborhood friends; and

28 WHEREAS, Mr. Collins attended Amanda Elzy High School, where
29 he developed lifelong friendships and an appreciation for
30 learning, and also met his soulmate, the former Miss Cassie Mae
31 Osborne, whose heart he impressed with his love, chivalry and
32 affection, and after a proper courtship he requested her hand in
33 marriage, gifting her his last name in an exchange of nuptials on
34 May 18, 1977, a union that was blessed with the addition of two
35 daughters; and

36 WHEREAS, during his 20s, Mr. Collins was compelled to answer
37 Uncle Sam's call to patriotic service, at which time he enlisted
38 in the United States Air Force, evidencing his allegiance to the
39 principles of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness in a free
40 democracy while serving his country during the Vietnam War era,
41 and upon the fulfillment of his sworn oath to faithfully defend
42 the Constitution of the United States against foreign and domestic
43 threats, he was honorably discharged from the Air Force and
44 returned to Minter City to help his parents with farming duties,



45 in addition to attending Coahoma Community College, where he
46 earned an associate of arts degree in agriculture and construction
47 studies; and

48 WHEREAS, transitioning to the workforce, Mr. Collins
49 initially worked in the trucking industry for many years as a
50 cross-country long-haul driver, and thereafter committed a portion
51 of his work life to the Mississippi State Penitentiary at
52 Parchman, before becoming gainfully employed as a senior heavy
53 machinery operator by the United States Army Corps of Engineers,
54 from which he would retire in November 2011; and

55 WHEREAS, relying on the tenets of faith instilled in him by
56 his parents, Mr. Collins remained cognizant of the words recorded
57 in I John 3:2, "Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what
58 we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when
59 Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he
60 is," and rededicated his life to Christ, uniting him in fellowship
61 with Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, where his devotion to
62 kingdom building was made evident in his active stewardship as a
63 regular attendee at Bible study and Sunday School, as well as
64 participating in the Laymen's Ministry, assisted with church
65 beautification projects, participated in Men's Day programs; and

66 WHEREAS, an individual of good rapport, whose reputation as a
67 Good Samaritan, willing to help anyone in need, especially his
68 neighbors and seniors, Mr. Collins was a quiet storm for a man of



69 few words, but when he did speak, he spoke with the sage wisdom
70 and sound logic of the ancestral elders; and

71 WHEREAS, one who possessed a keen understanding of the
72 importance of family, "Cliff" took great pleasure in spending time
73 with his wife, children and grandchildren, landscaping and
74 meticulously manicuring his yard, painting, taking on building
75 projects, watching "westerns," taking cathartic drives in his
76 truck, drinking Dr. Pepper, eating Cassie's homecooked meals, and
77 socializing with all who knew him; and

78 WHEREAS, though he has traversed life's river to now stand
79 upon the celestial shores in wonderment of Heaven's grandeur in
80 glorious reunion with the kindred spirits of loved ones who
81 transitioned before him, the memories of Mr. Collins will continue
82 to flourish in the hearts and minds of his survivors: his loving
83 wife, Cassie Mae Osborne Collins; children, Kanika (Reginald)
84 Collins Sharp and Dr. Shani (Timothy) Collins Woods; Charles
85 Blanchard and Michael Blanchard; grandchildren, Sidney, Reginald
86 II and Lailah Sharp; siblings, Ricky Collins, Ronnie (Brenda)
87 Collins, Ethel Day and Dr. Patricia (Arnhein) Cumbee; and a host
88 of relatives and friends; and

89 WHEREAS, we encourage the Collins family to find solace from
90 these words recorded in II Corinthians 1:3-4, "Blessed be the God
91 and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God
92 of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we



93 may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the
94 comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."; and

95 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
96 commend the monumental life of genuine individuals of Mr. Collins'
97 caliber, whose life personified the heart of Christ, which struck
98 a melodious chord with all he encountered along his earthly
99 sojourn:

100 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
101 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
102 mourn the loss, commemorate the life, service and legacy of Mr.
103 Charles "Cliff" Wilson Collins, and express deepest sympathy upon
104 his passing to his family and friends.

105 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
106 furnished to the family of Mr. Charles "Cliff" Wilson Collins and
107 to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

