

By: Representatives Ford (73rd), Hurst,
Mansell, McMillan

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 16

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND
2 LEGACY AND SERVICE OF MR. JAMES HAROLD "JIM" BUTLER, AND
3 EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS
4 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. James Harold "Jim" Butler to eternal rest on
13 Friday, August 25, 2023, as he made life's final transition from
14 earthly travailing to heavenly reward, rendering great sorrow and
15 loss to his family and many friends; and

16 WHEREAS, the City of Madison and the entirety of Madison
17 County, Mississippi, lost a revered community pillar, agricultural
18 expert, political strategist and lobbyist, contractor, military
19 veteran and Boy Scouts extraordinaire with the passing of Mr.



20 Butler, born September 5, 1948, and there is now a hush in our
21 hearts as we come together to pay our respects to the memory of
22 one who has been called to join that innumerable heavenly caravan;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, "Jim," as he was most affectionately referred to by
25 his family and closest friends, attended Madison-Ridgeland High
26 School, where he developed lifelong friendships and an
27 appreciation for learning, which served as the principal
28 foundation for his collegiate matriculation at Mississippi State
29 University; and

30 WHEREAS, instilled with an unwavering allegiance to
31 patriotism, Mr. Butler heeded the call to preserve and defend Lady
32 Liberty and uphold this nation's democracy by becoming a valiant
33 member of the United States Marine Corps, and upon the completion
34 of his honorable assignment with the "Devil Dogs," continued in
35 devoted service to the American banner of freedom as a member of
36 the United States Army Reserve; and

37 WHEREAS, as consummate professional, Jim's career began as a
38 representative with the Mississippi Farm Bureau which, through his
39 relationship building acumen, allowed him to seamlessly transition
40 into a lobby role for the Mississippi Power Association, and
41 ultimately as one of the "best homebuilders" throughout the
42 Greater Jackson Metropolitan area; and

43 WHEREAS, Jim's love, chivalry and affection pierced the heart
44 of the former Mary Hawkins, and after a proper courtship he



45 requested her hand in marriage, gifting her his last name in an
46 exchange of nuptials, a union that was blessed with the addition
47 of two sons and three grandchildren, as well as the change in
48 title to the "First Gentleman of Madison" after the election of
49 his beautiful wife to the honorable office of Mayor of the City of
50 Madison in 1981; and

51 WHEREAS, relying on the tenets of faith instilled in him by
52 his parents, Mr. Butler remained cognizant of the words recorded
53 in I John 3:2, "Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what
54 we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when
55 Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he
56 is," and dedicated his life to Christ, uniting in fellowship with
57 First Baptist Church Madison; and

58 WHEREAS, an individual of good rapport, whose reputation as a
59 Good Samaritan, willing to help anyone in need, especially his
60 neighbors and seniors, Mr. Butler was equally civic minded in his
61 endeavors, serving as a Madison County Election Commissioner for
62 numerous years; and

63 WHEREAS, though he has traversed life's river to now stand
64 upon the celestial shores in wonderment of Heaven's grandeur in
65 glorious reunion with the kindred spirits of loved ones who
66 transitioned before him, the memories of Mr. Butler will continue
67 to flourish in the hearts and minds of his survivors: his loving
68 wife, the honorable Mayor Mary Hawkins Butler; sons, James Bradley
69 Butler and Joseph "Joe" Richard Butler (Gretchen); grandchildren,



70 Isabel, Knox and Layla Butler; siblings, Pat Truesdale and Eddie
71 Butler (Jill); and a host of relatives and friends; and

72 WHEREAS, we encourage the Butler family to find solace from
73 these words recorded in II Corinthians 1:3-4, "Blessed be the God
74 and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God
75 of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we
76 may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the
77 comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."; and

78 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
79 commend the monumental life of genuine individuals of Mr. Butler's
80 caliber, whose life personified the heart of Christ, which struck
81 a melodious chord with all he encountered along his earthly
82 sojourn:

83 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
84 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
85 mourn the loss, commemorate the life, service and legacy of Mr.
86 James Harold "Jim" Butler, and express deepest sympathy upon his
87 passing to his family and friends.

88 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
89 furnished to the family of Mr. James Harold "Jim" Butler and to
90 the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

