

By: Representatives Holloway (27th), Bell
(65th)

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 44

1 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MRS. BESSIE NELL
2 JONES, AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS
3 UPON HER 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, on February 19, 2024, the immaculate
7 author and finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal
8 presence of dearly beloved, Mrs. Bessie Nell Jones, to eternal
9 rest, rendering great sorrow and loss to her family, friends and
10 community; and

11 WHEREAS, born on January 27, 1934, in Carthage, Mississippi,
12 to Mr. J.C. Crouther and Mrs. Jessie Crouther, Mrs. Jones was the
13 third born of nine children, and she accepted Christ as her
14 personal Lord and Savior at an early age at Zion Hill AME Church;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Mrs. Jones attended Wesley Chapel High School and
17 graduated in 1955, and she went on to study practical nursing at
18 Mississippi Valley State and Natchez Charity Hospital, and after



19 graduating on September 19, 1956, she started her first job as an
20 LPN at Leake Memorial Hospital in Carthage the next day, on
21 September 20, 1956, and she had the honor of being the first
22 African-American nurse to be hired by the hospital, and she made
23 it her mission to care for the sick and injured throughout her
24 illustrious career in healthcare; and

25 WHEREAS, in July 1990, Mrs. Jones retired from Leake
26 Memorial, promising her co-workers that she would be back part
27 time at her farewell party, and true to her word, she continued
28 working part time at both Leake Memorial and at Scott Regional
29 Hospital in Morton, Mississippi, and finally, at the age of 75,
30 her children convinced her to not renew her nursing license and
31 finally retire for good; and

32 WHEREAS, in 1952, Mrs. Jones met the love of her life, Mr.
33 L.V. (Hambone) Jones, and they exchanged vows of holy matrimony on
34 April 27, 1958, and together they raised six remarkable children,
35 Desi, Debbie, Jeanette, Jerome, Laschelle and Jason, and her
36 children were her pride and joy; and

37 WHEREAS, as a true role model and the foundation of her
38 family, Mrs. Jones excelled at motherhood and was a woman of
39 strong faith, and she instilled in her children the importance of
40 family, hard work, and doing what is right; and

41 WHEREAS, devoted to her faith, Mrs. Jones moved her
42 membership to Pilgrim Rest Missionary Baptist Church, and remained
43 a faithful member until she was called home; and



44 WHEREAS, Mrs. Jones also loved being a grandmother, and she
45 would travel all over the United States to make sure that she
46 never missed any of their special dates, whether it was a birthday
47 party, kindergarten graduation, sports event, dance recital, piano
48 recital, choral concert, high school graduation, or college
49 graduation; and

50 WHEREAS, Mrs. Jones's passions were her family, church, the
51 Mississippi State Bulldogs, the Dallas Cowboys and quilting, and
52 she loved to spend hours putting quilts together while watching
53 her Bulldogs play on Saturday, and while watching her "stories"
54 during the week, and her family knew not to call her whenever The
55 Young and The Restless or The Bold and The Beautiful were on
56 television, because she would not answer the phone during that
57 time; and

58 WHEREAS, Mrs. Jones's life was a testament to the beauty of a
59 life well lived, the lives she touched, and the love she shared,
60 and her presence will be deeply missed, but her legacy will bloom
61 eternally in the hearts of those she has left behind; and

62 WHEREAS, a genuine and lovely lady of exceptional character,
63 Mrs. Jones's outstanding legacy will continue for generations to
64 come, and precious memories of time spent with her will hopefully
65 continue to provide warmth, peace and comfort to her loved ones;
66 and

67 WHEREAS, though she has traversed the river of life to
68 reunite with those who answered God's summons to life eternal and



69 now beckon her arrival to the celestial shores of Heaven's
70 grandeur, such as her parents, Mr. J.C. Crouther and Mrs. Jessie
71 Crouther; husband, L.V. (Hambone) Jones; daughters, Jeanette
72 Beatie and Debbie Jones; sisters, Myrtle Bell Moton and Baby Ruth
73 Crouther; and brother, Elvin Crouther; the legacy of Mrs. Jones's
74 indelible imprint upon our lives will continue to refresh the
75 hearts and fond memories of her loved ones, including her
76 children, Desi Crouther, Jerome Jones, Laschelle Jones Cooper and
77 Jason Jones; sisters, Willie Bea Avant and Lillie Jackon;
78 brothers, Albert Crouther, Bobby Crouther and Mitchell Crouther;
79 sister-in-loves, Helen Davis, Florine Crouther, Judy Crouther and
80 Ada Rich; son-in-love, Will Beatie; daughter-in-loves, Tonya
81 Stowers and Tammie Davis Jones; grandchildren, Willie Beatie,
82 Jeffrey Jones, Kendall Crouther, Alex Jones, Myles Crouther, A.D.
83 Beatie, Tevin Jones, Cameron Jones, Tyla Parks, Sean Crouther, and
84 her baby, Averie Jones; great-grandchildren, Lennox Jones and
85 Roman Jones; bonus children, grandchildren, and
86 great-grandchildren, Ossie Whittington, Ellen Gray, Lester Jones,
87 Baraka Perez, Deidre Lavine, Patricia Santos, Pamela Santos, Kesha
88 Pommier, Willie Earl Gray Jr., Tamia Cavett, Simone Lassere,
89 Chantae Davis, Darnell Payton, Jordan Whittington, Morgan Pommier,
90 Allana Pommier, Miles Perez, Riley Perez, Zayden Johnson and Royce
91 Davis; "adopted" family and grandchildren, Pat Stokes, Elaine
92 Cleveland, Shalette Curry and Jaylen Banks; as well as beloved
93 cousins, nieces, nephews, other relatives and dear friends; and



94 WHEREAS, Mrs. Jones will forever be loved, cherished and
95 missed by all who knew her, and since it is written in 2
96 Corinthians 5:8, that to be "absent from the body is to be present
97 with the Lord," her family and friends can find peace and comfort
98 during this difficult time; and

99 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
100 recognize and honor the lives of outstanding Mississippians,
101 especially those such as Mrs. Jones, a wonderful lady whose life's
102 light illuminated the path of hope for all she encountered along
103 this earthly sojourn:

104 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
105 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
106 mourn the loss and honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Bessie Nell
107 Jones, and express deepest sympathy to her family and friends upon
108 her passing.

109 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
110 furnished to the family of Mrs. Bessie Nell Jones, and to the
111 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

