

By: The Entire Membership

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 92

1 A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING MR. ALFRED WILLIAMS
2 FOR BEING THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN INDUCTED INTO THE BASS
3 FISHING HALL OF FAME.

4 WHEREAS, Mr. Alfred Williams, of Jackson, Mississippi, is the
5 first African American to be inducted into the Bass Fishing Hall
6 of Fame, a truly outstanding achievement; and

7 WHEREAS, after valiantly serving his country in the Vietnam
8 War, Mr. Williams began fishing in bass tournaments, often as the
9 only African-American competitor, and winning way more than his
10 share, and he joined a local B.A.S.S. Nation bass club, made the
11 Mississippi state team, and then won the 1983 Bassmaster Classic
12 divisional qualifier on the Ross Barnett Reservoir; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Williams earned a berth in the Classic that year
14 on the Ohio River at Cincinnati, Ohio, making history as the first
15 African-American angler ever to qualify for the prestigious
16 championship, and he finished 10th out of 42 contenders, ranking
17 ahead of Hank Parker, Rick Clunn, Denny Brauer and Roland Martin;
18 and



19 WHEREAS, a true trailblazer, Mr. Williams' success attracted
20 many more African-American anglers to bass fishing and paved the
21 way for Ish Monroe, Mark Daniels, Jr., and other African-American
22 pro anglers to follow; and

23 WHEREAS, Mr. Williams is also credited with popularizing the
24 use of hollow-body frogs, which accounted for many of his 200
25 tournament victories on the Ross Barnett Reservoir; and

26 WHEREAS, in addition, Mr. Williams also added weight to his
27 favorite Snag Proof models to make them ride lower in the water
28 and dramatically improve hook-setting success, and he drew more
29 strikes by adding a rattle chamber to the belly and replacing the
30 stock rubber legs with spinnerbait skirts, and because of this,
31 Snag Proof incorporated his custom alterations in certain
32 tournament models of its frogs; and

33 WHEREAS, throughout his long, illustrious fishing career, Mr.
34 Williams competed in nearly 300 BASSMASTER and FLW events, winning
35 four pro-level contests and earning numerous Top 10s; and

36 WHEREAS, dedicated to his community, Mr. Williams continues
37 to serve as a mentor and role model to other African-American
38 anglers in Mississippi and throughout the nation; and

39 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
40 recognize and honor extraordinary Mississippians, especially those
41 such as Mr. Williams, whose dedication to the sport of fishing is
42 an inspiration to all and brings honor to his community and to the
43 State of Mississippi:



44 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
45 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
46 recognize and commend Mr. Alfred Williams for being the first
47 African American to be inducted into the Bass Fishing Hall of
48 Fame, and express most sincere wishes for continued success in all
49 his future endeavors.

50 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
51 furnished to Mr. Alfred Williams, and to the members of the
52 Capitol Press Corps.

