

By: Representative Creekmore IV

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 107

1 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF CHIEF WILLIAM
2 ANTHONY ANDERSON, SR., AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS
3 FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS 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 Saturday, March 9, 2024, the
7 immaculate author and finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the
8 mortal presence of dearly beloved, Chief William Anthony Anderson,
9 Sr., of New Albany, Mississippi, to eternal rest, rendering great
10 sorrow and loss to his family, friends and community; and

11 WHEREAS, born on July 12, 1962, to the late Mr. William
12 (W.M.) Anderson and Mrs. Ilene Anderson, Chief Anderson was a 1981
13 graduate of East Union Attendance Center and received an associate
14 degree from Northeast Mississippi Junior College before attending
15 Middle Tennessee State University; and

16 WHEREAS, true love struck, and on September 27, 1985, Chief
17 Anderson exchanged the vows of holy matrimony with Ms. Constance



18 (Connie) Vernatt Smith, and they were blessed with three children,
19 Anna, Ebony and William, who is also in law enforcement; and

20 WHEREAS, at an early age, Chief Anderson accepted Christ as
21 his savior at Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church, where he and
22 his wife were active and dedicated members for many years, and
23 while there, he served on the Deacon Board, and later, he and his
24 wife joined Ecrú Second Baptist Church, where he served as a
25 Deacon, Assistant Church Treasurer, Outreach Team Liaison and a
26 reliable liaison for the Music Ministry, and as he faithfully
27 served wherever he was needed, he was a member of Project Domino,
28 the Man-Up Organization, and the Masonic Lodge 171 in New Albany;
29 and

30 WHEREAS, Chief Anderson was in his twenty-fourth year in law
31 enforcement after graduating from the North Mississippi Law
32 Enforcement Academy in 2000, and previously worked for the Union
33 County Sheriff's Department for 12 years, and he also served a
34 three-year stint as the chief of police for the city of Verona,
35 Mississippi, before joining the Northeast Mississippi Community
36 College police department full time in 2014; and

37 WHEREAS, during his time with the Union County Sheriff's
38 Department, Chief Anderson worked as a field deputy and an
39 investigator who focused on sex crimes and crimes against
40 vulnerable adults and children, and he was a member of the Union
41 County Urban Search and Rescue squad as well as a member of the
42 Union County SWAT team; and



43 WHEREAS, as the chief of police for Verona, Chief Anderson
44 was instrumental in hiring over 20 reserve officers for the
45 growing police department and helping to reduce the crime rate in
46 the city; and

47 WHEREAS, as a former Northeast Mississippi Community College
48 Tiger basketball standout, during his time on the hardwood, Chief
49 Anderson expressed his basketball prowess and led Northeast to
50 over 40 wins in his two years, and during his first year at
51 Northeast, the Tigers rallied to win the state championship
52 against Hinds Community College in Utica 86-78; and

53 WHEREAS, in his sophomore season, Chief Anderson helped
54 Northeast land the inaugural National Junior College Athletic
55 Association (NJCAA) Region XXIII Tournament, where he scored a
56 game-best 45 points including a 20-for-22 showing from the charity
57 stripe against Delgado Community College of Louisiana in the
58 opening round of the regional tournament; and

59 WHEREAS, Chief Anderson scored a career-high 46 points versus
60 the now-defunct Mary Holmes College on January 15, 1983, and those
61 performances are still two of the top 10 scoring games for any
62 Northeast athlete over the last 40 years; and

63 WHEREAS, Chief Anderson finished the season as the leading
64 scorer in the NJCAA Region XXIII with 793 points and was also
65 ranked amongst the top 10 rebounders in the conference as a
66 sophomore; and



67 WHEREAS, Chief Anderson was named the Babe McCarthy Junior
68 College Player of the Year, which is awarded to the top athlete at
69 the two-year level in Mississippi, an NJCAA All-American, and was
70 voted by his teammates and Coach Richard Mathis as Northeast's
71 Most Valuable Player following his sophomore season; and

72 WHEREAS, Chief Anderson accumulated 1,098 total points in a
73 black-and-gold uniform, despite not benefitting from a three-point
74 line, and he used free throws to his advantage instead with 155
75 makes during the 1982-83 campaign alone, and in 2023, he was
76 inducted into the Mississippi Association of Community Colleges
77 Conference (MACCC) Hall of Fame; and

78 WHEREAS, devoted to campus safety, Chief Anderson assumed
79 command of the Northeast Mississippi Community College Campus
80 Police Department on July 1, 2023, after the retirement of
81 longtime chief of police Randy Baxter; and

82 WHEREAS, Chief Anderson, who served as assistant chief under
83 former Chief Baxter, led the campus' police department that
84 provides security and safety for all college facilities along with
85 assistance to college employees, students, visitors and community
86 members 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

87 WHEREAS, Chief Anderson was instrumental in updating the
88 campus safety plan, providing professional development on campus
89 safety and instrumenting new policies that helped the college's
90 police department function more efficiently, and he and his staff
91 made sure that Northeast's employees, students and community



92 members were safe, and even provided vehicle safety checks for
93 students before they left for Spring Break; and

94 WHEREAS, as a leader, mentor, counselor and encourager to
95 young people all over the area, Chief Anderson used his allotted
96 time to serve God and his community, and his legacy of service and
97 dedication to safety will live on through those he served, and his
98 "never met a stranger" personality, easy smile and professional
99 demeanor will always be remembered in the hearts of those he
100 protected and inspired; and

101 WHEREAS, a genuine man of exceptional character, Chief
102 Anderson's outstanding legacy will continue for generations to
103 come, and precious memories of time spent with him will hopefully
104 continue to provide warmth, peace and comfort to his loved ones;
105 and

106 WHEREAS, though he has traversed the river of life to reunite
107 with those who answered God's summons to life eternal and now
108 beckon his arrival to the celestial shores of Heaven's grandeur,
109 such as his parents, Mr. William (W.M.) Anderson and Mrs. Ilene
110 Anderson; the legacy of Chief Anderson's indelible imprint upon
111 our lives will continue to refresh the hearts and fond memories of
112 his loved ones, including his wife, Mrs. Connie Anderson;
113 children, Anna Jade Price, Ebony Anderson and William Anthony
114 Anderson, Jr.; grandchildren, Kydyn, Fallyn and Lennux; sister,
115 Carlena Simpson; nephews, Keith Anderson and Kevin Simpson; niece,



116 Darlene Johnson; and a host of other relatives and dear friends;
117 and

118 WHEREAS, Chief Anderson will forever be loved, cherished and
119 missed by all who knew him, and since it is written in 2
120 Corinthians 5:8, that to be "absent from the body is to be present
121 with the Lord," his family and friends can find peace and comfort
122 during this difficult time; and

123 WHEREAS, it is most appropriate to recognize and honor the
124 lives of outstanding Mississippians, especially those such as
125 Chief Anderson, a wonderful man whose life's light illuminated the
126 path of hope for all he encountered along this earthly sojourn:

127 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
128 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
129 mourn the loss and honor the life and legacy of Chief William
130 Anthony Anderson, Sr., and express deepest sympathy to his family,
131 friends and Northeast Mississippi Community College community upon
132 his passing.

133 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
134 furnished to the family of Chief William Anthony Anderson, Sr.,
135 and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

