

By: Representatives Bell (65th), Butler-
Washington, Banks, Brown

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 149

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE,
2 SERVICE AND LEGACY OF MR. JOE TROTTER DOCKINS AND EXPRESSING
3 DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, it is written in II Corinthians 4:17-18, "For our
5 light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far
6 more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at
7 the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen:
8 for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which
9 are not seen are eternal," and as such, the immaculate author and
10 finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal presence of
11 dearly beloved, Mr. Joe Trotter Dockins to eternal rest on Monday,
12 April 22, 2024, as he made life's final transition from earthly
13 travailing to heavenly reward, rendering great sorrow and loss to
14 his family and many friends; and

15 WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi lost a revered community
16 pillar, activist and benevolent philanthropist with the passing of
17 Mr. Dockins, born in Starkville, Mississippi, on July 5, 1930, to
18 the late Mr. Mathew and Mrs. Mary Frances Dockins, and there is



19 now a hush in our hearts as we come together to pay our respects
20 to the memory of one who has been called to join that innumerable
21 heavenly caravan; and

22 WHEREAS, a graduate of Oktibbeha County Training School, Mr.
23 Dockins embarked upon his postsecondary matriculation at Alcorn
24 College, where he earned a bachelor of science degree in economics
25 in May 1953, which served as a precursory accomplishment to his
26 desire to become intellectually satiated, and directed his
27 postgraduate path to Prairie View A&M University in Prairie View,
28 Texas, in 1953, and subsequent thereafter at the University of
29 Wisconsin in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1964, where he focused on the
30 field of human development and interpersonal relationship; and

31 WHEREAS, during his undergraduate year on the "Plantation" at
32 Alcorn, Mr. Dockins crossed the burning sands of the divine
33 panhellenic order to become a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity,
34 Inc., on December 16, 1950, and after graduation, became active
35 with the Beta Alpha Chapter in Jackson, Mississippi, where he
36 served as Basileus from 1977 to 1979, received a plaque in 1976
37 for being the "Man of the Year" for assisting in securing a
38 fraternity house, and earned his 40th, 50th, 60th and 75th year
39 membership pins before receiving a Certificate of Life Membership
40 and being inducted into the Mississippi Omega Psi Phi Fraternity
41 Hall of Fame in 2016; and

42 WHEREAS, having learned the value of a dollar at a very early
43 age, which enabled him to develop a strong work ethic as early as



44 five years of age while working in his parents' grocery store,
45 those core values manifested themselves in Mr. Dockins devoting
46 his life to serving and improving the State of Mississippi through
47 his professional contributions, initially as an associate county
48 agent for the Mississippi Agriculture Extension Services in
49 Louisville, then in 1965, he became an assistant county supervisor
50 for the Farmers Home Administration before being promoted to
51 county supervisor in 1981, and after 33 years of dedicated service
52 he retired in 1987, but in his passion to answer the call to be of
53 service, he began his second career with the Mississippi Action
54 for Progress as Director of Personnel in 1989, devoting another 17
55 years of laudable public service until he made the decision to
56 punch this retirement card again in 2006 as the Safety Coordinator
57 of Mississippi Action for Progress; and

58 WHEREAS, an individual of profound faith, which was instilled
59 by his parents at the early stages of his life, Mr. Dockins
60 accepted Christ at Griffin United Methodist Church in Starkville,
61 and later joined Central United Methodist Church in 1966, where,
62 in seeking after God's own heart, he served as President of
63 Central United Methodist Men from 1977 until 1993, Finance
64 Committee Chairperson from 1985 until 1987, past Vice President of
65 the Usher Board, as a member of the Pastor Parish Relations
66 Committee, and as a former Lay Leader; and

67 WHEREAS, Joe's love, chivalry and affection pierced the heart
68 of the late Mrs. Odelle D. Dockins, and the two lovebirds



69 exchanged the vows of holy matrimony, and together constructed a
70 foundation of marital bliss that was blessed with the addition of
71 two children, Metric and JoAndrea, and spanned the course of 54
72 years until the Great Deity, in divine providence, deemed it
73 appropriate to summons Mrs. Dockins mortal presence into the
74 heaven's center court; and

75 WHEREAS, throughout his life, Mr. Dockins remained active in
76 the civic, social and public service sector, including: District
77 Marshal for the 7th District Meeting held in Jackson in 1984;
78 Alcorn Alumni Association, and president of the Jackson Chapter
79 from 1986-1989; Coordinator of the Monday Evening Club; member of
80 the Mississippi House of Representatives from 1989 until 1993;
81 member of the Mississippi Farmers Home Administration Minority
82 Employee Association; past member of Phi Delta Kappa; member of
83 the Board of Directors of Central Mississippi Health Services,
84 Inc.; member of the Board of Directors of the Wesley
85 Foundation-Alcorn State University; Mission Mississippi; and
86 member of Boy Scouts of America, Andrew Jackson Council; and

87 WHEREAS, though he has traversed life's river to now stand
88 upon the celestial shores in wonderment of Heaven's grandeur in
89 glorious reunion with the kindred spirits of loved ones who
90 transitioned before him, including his parents, wife and siblings
91 Halbert, Naomi, Jimmie and Mathew, the memories of Mr. Dockins
92 indelible legacy will continue to flourish in the hearts and minds
93 of his survivors: children, Metric Dockins and Dr. JoAndrea



94 Dockins; sister-in-law, Elouise (Joe) Shanks; and a host of other
95 relatives and friends; and

96 WHEREAS, we encourage the Dockins family to find solace from
97 these words recorded in II Corinthians 1:3-4, "Blessed be the God
98 and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God
99 of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we
100 may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the
101 comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God"; and

102 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
103 commend the monumental life of genuine individuals of Mr. Joe
104 Trotter Dockins' caliber, whose life personified the heart of
105 Christ, which struck a melodious chord with all he encountered
106 along his earthly sojourn:

107 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
108 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
109 mourn the loss, commemorate the life, service and legacy of Mr.
110 Joe Trotter Dockins, and express deepest sympathy upon his passing
111 to his family and friends.

112 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
113 furnished to the family of Mr. Joe Trotter Dockins and to the
114 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

