

By: Senator(s) Norwood, Horhn, Frazier,
Simmons (12th), Branning

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 517

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE DEEPEST SYMPATHY OF THE
2 LEGISLATURE TO THE SURVIVING FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MARGARETT
3 LOUISE ALLEN-BINGHAM WHO WAS THE FIRST FEMALE SUPERINTENDENT OF A
4 CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IN MISSISSIPPI AND LONGTIME RESPECTED LEADER
5 IN THE FIELD OF CORRECTIONS AND MENTAL HEALTH.

6 WHEREAS, it is with sadness that we note the passing of
7 longtime Mississippi Correctional and Mental Health Administrator
8 Margaret Louise Allen-Bingham on November 2, 2023; and

9 WHEREAS, Margaret Bingham had an outstanding career of
10 leadership in the Mississippi Department of Corrections and was a
11 longstanding member of the Board of Directors of the Center for
12 Independent Learning Inc/The Friendship Connection which is a
13 Central Mississippi Recovery Center for Women located in Jackson,
14 Mississippi; and

15 WHEREAS, Margaret Bingham began her professional career in
16 1971 in Washington, D.C., as a Women's Half-way House Counselor.
17 She served five years in this position before returning to her
18 home state of Mississippi; and



19 WHEREAS, she began her distinguished career with the
20 Mississippi Department of Correction in 1976, making strides for
21 over 35 years with MDOC. She accomplished many firsts with MDOC
22 in the State of Mississippi. Margaret was the first Woman
23 Lieutenant at the Mississippi State Penitentiary in Parchman,
24 Mississippi, the first Mississippi Department of Corrections
25 Deputy Warden at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility in
26 Rankin County, Mississippi, and on January 1, 2005, she made
27 Mississippi history by becoming the First Woman Superintendent of
28 a Correctional Facility in the State of Mississippi; and

29 WHEREAS, Margaret joined the Board of Directors of the
30 Center for Independent Learning in 2000 and immediately accepted
31 assignments on committees and projects in order to provide care
32 and services to people who seek to build bridges to "incarcerated
33 women." She was a leader who enabled a reconciliation with the
34 "free world" for women who are defined poorly by a legal system
35 and are often bound by the disease of alcohol and drug addiction;
36 and

37 WHEREAS, Margaret provided education, advocacy, and direct
38 services which promote self-esteem, dignity, integrity,
39 responsibility, and trusting, healthy relationships. She also
40 loved spending time with her family, who meant everything to her.
41 She was a beacon of light to all and an inspiration in every life
42 she impacted; and



43 WHEREAS, Margaret accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior at
44 an early age at Sweet Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church located in
45 Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and was a faithful member of Emmanuel
46 Missionary Baptist Church in Jackson, Mississippi. Her dedication
47 demonstrated the words of the old spiritual, *"If I can Help
48 Somebody...then my living shall not be in vain"*; and

49 WHEREAS, she leaves to cherish her memory and to carry on her
50 notable legacy: daughter, Millicent Michelle Bingham;
51 grandchildren, Devin Bingham, Ja'Niel Bingham and Brayden Bingham;
52 brothers, Ernest Allen (Eve) and Louis Allen; special cousins,
53 Imogene Burton and special nephew, Vincent Parker. The children
54 of her late brothers, Roy Allen, Carl Allen and Donald Allen and a
55 host of grandnieces and nephews, cousins, extended family and the
56 Emmanuel Missionary Baptist Church Family; and

57 WHEREAS, Margaret Bingham leaves a great legacy and served
58 an historic role within the Department of Corrections, the
59 Department of Mental Health and the State of Mississippi.
60 Margaret's love, commitment and lasting impact on her family and
61 the State of Mississippi will be missed:

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
63 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That
64 we do hereby extend the deepest sympathy of the Legislature to the
65 surviving family and friends of Margaret Louise Allen-Bingham who
66 was the first female Superintendent of a correctional facility in
67 Mississippi and longtime respected leader in the field of



68 correctional and mental health and give our thanks for sharing
69 Margaret with us and with the State of Mississippi.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
71 the family of Margaret Louise Allen-Bingham, forwarded to Robert
72 Davidson, President of the Board of Directors of the Center for
73 Independent Learning/the Friendship Connection and be made
74 available to the Capitol Press Corps.

