

By: Senator(s) Tate, Frazier, Horhn,
McCaughn, Michel, Hickman

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 115

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMENDING THE LIFE AND
2 PUBLIC LEGAL SERVICE OF FORMER STATE SENATOR, LAUDERDALE COUNTY
3 PROSECUTOR AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY, MISSISSIPPI WORKERS'
4 COMPENSATION COMMISSION CHAIRMAN AND WORLD WAR II VETERAN, JOE
5 CLAY HAMILTON, OF MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI, AND EXTENDING THE DEEPEST
6 SYMPATHY OF THE MISSISSIPPI SENATE TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS ON
7 HIS PASSING.

8 WHEREAS, the Legislature and the State of Mississippi lost a
9 wonderful colleague, well-known and respected attorney,
10 long-tenured public servant, former State Senator and former
11 District Attorney, Chairman of the Mississippi Workers'
12 Compensation Commission, distinguished World War II veteran, and
13 gentleman, Joe Clay Hamilton, 95, of Meridian, Mississippi, who
14 passed away on April 11, 2023; and

15 WHEREAS, a graduate of the University of Mississippi School
16 Law, he was admitted to the Mississippi Bar in 1959 and practiced
17 law for more than 50 years; and

18 WHEREAS, Senator Hamilton served in the United States Army
19 during World War II and was stationed in the Pacific; and



20 WHEREAS, Senator Hamilton served as Chairman of the
21 Mississippi Workers' Compensation Commission; and

22 WHEREAS, he was elected Lauderdale County Prosecutor for two
23 terms and as District Attorney for the 10th Judicial District for
24 two years; and

25 WHEREAS, Senator Hamilton represented Lauderdale County as a
26 State Senator for a single term; and

27 WHEREAS, he was honored as Trial Lawyer of the Year in 2010
28 by the Mississippi Trial Lawyers Association (now the Mississippi
29 Association for Justice); and

30 WHEREAS, during his legislative career, Hamilton was awarded
31 the Advocacy Award by the Mississippi State Coalition Against
32 Domestic Violence for his role in the passage of spousal abuse
33 laws; and

34 WHEREAS, in 1995, for his role in sponsoring and supporting
35 legislation promoting equality under the law, the NAACP honored
36 Hamilton with its Certificate of Excellence; and

37 WHEREAS, Senator Hamilton is survived by his wife, Paula;
38 sons, John, Joel and Kevin; grandchildren, Allison, Maverick,
39 Zella, Quenby, Jennings, Jules and Laney; and great grandchildren,
40 Vesper, Amiliza, Madilyn, Teagan, Levi and Meliora. He is
41 preceded in death by his oldest son, Clay; and

42 WHEREAS, Senator Hamilton's life and public service were
43 marked by his commitment to success and recognized leadership,
44 sound judgment and fairness. He set the highest standard in all



45 his many roles as a practicing attorney, county prosecutor,
46 statesman and leader in the Mississippi Senate and the Mississippi
47 Workers' Compensation Commission, citizen and as a true friend:

48 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
49 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby mourn the loss and commend the life
50 and career and legacy of former State Senator, Lauderdale County
51 Prosecutor and District Attorney, Mississippi Workers'
52 Compensation Commission Chairman and World War II Veteran, Joe
53 Clay Hamilton, of Meridian, Mississippi, and extend the deepest
54 sympathy of the Mississippi Senate to his family and friends on
55 his passing.

56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
57 the family of Joe Clay Hamilton, forwarded to the Lauderdale
58 County Board of Supervisors, the Mississippi Workers' Compensation
59 Commission and the Mississippi Bar and be made available to the
60 Capitol Press Corps.

