

By: Representative Scott

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 19

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE,
2 LEGACY, AND SERVICE OF MRS. MARY LEE PEARSON-FINCH, AND EXPRESSING
3 DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HER 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, Mrs. Mary Lee Pearson-Finch, to eternal rest on
12 Wednesday, January 29, 2025, rendering great sorrow and loss to
13 her family and many friends; and

14 WHEREAS, the City of Laurel and the entirety of Jones County,
15 Mississippi, lost a revered community pillar, with the passing of
16 Mrs. Pearson-Finch, born on February 7, 1922, to her late parents,
17 Mr. Johnny and Mrs. Lola Jordan, in Jones County, Mississippi, and
18 there is now a hush in our hearts as we come together to pay our

19 respects to the memory of one who has been called to join that
20 innumerable heavenly caravan; and

21 WHEREAS, raised with a foundation of integrity, love,
22 kindness, and compassion imparted by her parents, Mrs.
23 Pearson-Finch confessed a hope in Christ under the Methodist
24 faith, uniting with the Sunlight Baptist Church before later
25 becoming a devoted member of Providence Baptist Church, where she
26 faithfully served on the Mother's Board, as a Sunday School
27 teacher, in the Women's Missionary Society, as President, and as a
28 member of the senior and combined choirs; and

29 WHEREAS, initially educated at home before enrolling in
30 Friendship School in the Hoy Community, Mrs. Pearson-Finch
31 excelled academically, being named valedictorian of her 8th grade
32 class and achieving high honors before transferring to Oak Park
33 High School in Laurel, where she endured the setback of being
34 placed in 9th grade upon transfer but persevered to graduate in
35 1945; and

36 WHEREAS, a well-rounded student, Mrs. Pearson-Finch
37 distinguished herself not only in academics but also as a star
38 basketball player and choir singer alongside future operatic
39 legend Leontyne Price; and

40 WHEREAS, her life's journey was blessed with the love and
41 partnership of Mr. Elijah Pearson, whom she wed in 1945, and
42 together they built a lifetime of memories and a legacy of love
43 with nine children until his passing, and who, in divine

44 providence, was fortunate to experience love again with Mr. Alonzo
45 Finch, whom she married in 1990, sharing life's joys and
46 companionship until his passing in 2003; and

47 WHEREAS, a diligent worker and provider, Mrs. Pearson-Finch
48 dedicated herself to supporting her family through employment with
49 the Mayhall Canning Plant, Jones County Community Hospital (now
50 South Central Regional Medical Center), Hilburn Poultry (now Wayne
51 Poultry) and Masonite Hospital before concluding her working
52 career with a 15-year return to Jones County Community Hospital,
53 retiring in 1986; and

54 WHEREAS, an enterprising spirit even in retirement, Mrs.
55 Pearson-Finch co-founded "Triple M Catering" with her daughters,
56 showcasing her renowned baking skills before ultimately retiring a
57 second time to enjoy fishing, quilting and watching TV game shows;
58 and

59 WHEREAS, the matriarch of her family, Mrs. Pearson-Finch
60 remained the nucleus and foundation of an unbreakable bond of
61 love, honor, devotion and encouragement, sharing her wisdom and
62 experiences while crediting her longevity to unwavering faith in
63 God; and

64 WHEREAS, though she has traversed life's river to now stand
65 upon the celestial shores in wonderment of Heaven's grandeur in
66 glorious reunion with the kindred spirits of loved ones who

67 transitioned before her, the memories of Mrs. Pearson-Finch will
68 continue to flourish in the hearts and lives of all who knew her,
69 especially her children and grandchildren; and

70 WHEREAS, we encourage the Pearson-Finch family to find solace
71 from these words recorded in II Corinthians 1:3-4, "Blessed be the
72 God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and
73 God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that
74 we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with
75 the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."; and

76 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
77 commend the monumental life of genuine individuals like Mrs.
78 Pearson-Finch, whose life was a testament to faith, family and
79 community, which struck a melodious chord with all she encountered
80 along her earthly sojourn:

81 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
82 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
83 mourn the loss, commemorate the life, service and legacy of Mrs.
84 Mary Lee Pearson-Finch, and express deepest sympathy to her family
85 and friends upon her passing.

86 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
87 furnished to the family of Mrs. Mary Lee Pearson-Finch and to the
88 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

