

By: Representative Scott

To: Rules

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 20

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE,
2 LEGACY, AND SERVICE OF MRS. OTHA MAE MATTIE JUANITA SHELBY, AND
3 EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HER FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HER
4 PASSING.

5 WHEREAS, it is written in II Corinthians 4:17-18, "For our
6 light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far
7 more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at
8 the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen:
9 for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which
10 are not seen are eternal," and as such, the immaculate author and
11 finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal presence of
12 dearly beloved, Mrs. Otha Mae Mattie Juanita Shelby, to eternal
13 rest on Tuesday, February 5, 2025, rendering great sorrow and loss
14 to her family and many friends; and

15 WHEREAS, the City of Bay Springs and the entirety of Jasper
16 County, Mississippi, lost a revered community pillar, with the
17 passing of Mrs. Shelby, born on December 26, 1928, the sixth of
18 seven children, to Mr. Paul Falls, Sr., and Mrs. Denotria Quince
19 Falls, and there is now a hush in our hearts as we come together



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

22 WHEREAS, Otha Mae was graduating at the top of her class from
23 Bay Springs Vocational School, where she delivered her
24 valedictorian speech with enthusiasm that is still remembered
25 today; and

26 WHEREAS, a bright and loving child who excelled academically,
27 who completed her formal education as valedictorian of her Bay
28 Springs Vocational School graduating class, Mrs. Shelby embraced
29 the workforce, initially moving to Waco, Texas, before returning
30 to her hometown, where she became a supervisor in the cafeteria at
31 Bay Springs Vocational School, ensuring students had nutritious
32 meals daily; and

33 WHEREAS, her dedication to service led her to Jasper General
34 Hospital, where she worked in various capacities, including as a
35 radiology technician, over the span of 40-plus years before
36 retiring at the age of 78 from the Dietary Department; and

37 WHEREAS, a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, she shared a
38 wonderful life with her husband, Colridge Shelby, raising their
39 three sons, Jerry Wilson, Bobby L. Wilson and Thomas L. Wilson,
40 while instilling in them the values of hard work, faith and
41 resilience; and

42 WHEREAS, affectionately called "Ma Dear" by her children,
43 Mrs. Shelby was the heart of her family, maintaining the cherished



44 tradition of Sunday dinners and annual family gatherings, ensuring
45 the bonds of love remained strong; and

46 WHEREAS, she dedicated her life to the Lord, joining
47 Bethlehem United Methodist Church at an early age, where she
48 became an integral and irreplaceable pillar of the congregation,
49 serving under every Pastor in numerous roles, including Sunday
50 School teacher, choir member, Communion Steward, Usher, Lay Leader
51 and founder of Circle #2 of the United Methodist Women, among
52 countless other instrumental contributions which led to the
53 establishment of the Rainbow Tea and the Miss Black Jasper County
54 Pageant, while also overseeing the Cemetery Business with
55 unwavering dedication; and

56 WHEREAS, her faithfulness, generosity and selflessness were
57 evident in every aspect of her life, and she imparted to her
58 children and grandchildren the importance of actively serving the
59 church and community rather than being mere spectators; and

60 WHEREAS, in her leisure time, Mrs. Shelby enjoyed watching
61 the Atlanta Braves and her beloved soap operas, making it well
62 known that during these moments, interruptions were not welcomed;
63 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, including, her beloved parents, siblings:
68 Kitson, Mary Frances, Paul Jr., Willie D. "Bill" Falls and Carlee



69 Falls Keyes; daughter-in-law, Joycelyn Wilson, and grandsons,
70 Quintyn R. Wilson and Dominic Agee; the memories of Mrs. Shelby
71 will continue to flourish in the hearts and minds of her
72 survivors: sons, Jerry Wilson, Bobby L. Wilson (Margarett) and
73 Thomas L. Wilson (Juliet); sister, Cherrie Mae Gammage; numerous
74 grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and a host of adoring
75 relatives and friends; and

76 WHEREAS, we encourage the family of Mrs. Shelby to find
77 solace from these words recorded in II Corinthians 1:3-4, "Blessed
78 be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of
79 mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our
80 affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any
81 affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted
82 by God."; and

83 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
84 commend the monumental life of genuine individuals like Mrs.
85 Shelby, whose life was a testament to faith, family and community:

86 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
87 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
88 mourn the loss, commemorate the life, service and legacy of Mrs.
89 Otha Mae Mattie Juanita Shelby, and express deepest sympathy to
90 her family and friends upon her passing.

91 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
92 furnished to the family of Mrs. Otha Mae Mattie Juanita Shelby and
93 to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

