

By: Representative Banks

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 69

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING THE
2 EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF MR. MILLER BERNARD SMITH, JR., AND
3 EXPRESSING OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS
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 Mr. Miller Bernard Smith, Jr., to rest eternally,
13 as he has made life's final transition from earthly travailing to
14 heavenly reward, rendering great sorrow and loss to his family and
15 friends; and

16 WHEREAS, the community of Jackson, Mississippi, and beyond
17 mourn the loss of a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother,
18 mentor and esteemed radio personality, Mr. Miller Bernard Smith,
19 Jr., affectionately known as "Junebug" and musically revered as



20 "The Mighty Burner," who departed this life on February 12, 2025,
21 and there is now a hush in our hearts as we come together to pay
22 our respects to the memory of one who has been called to join that
23 innumerable heavenly caravan; and

24 WHEREAS, born on January 15, 1952, in Jackson, Mississippi,
25 to the late Miller Bernard Smith, Sr., and Jessie Mable Thomas,
26 Miller was the second of two children, and was blessed with a
27 loving upbringing that laid the foundation for a life of service,
28 passion and dedication, which was premised on his academic
29 journey, which began at Christ the King Catholic School, followed
30 by his matriculation through Blackburn Middle School and Jim Hill
31 High School within the Jackson Public School District; and

32 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith embarked his postsecondary matriculation
33 at 'Thee' Jackson State University, where he not only expanded his
34 intellectual horizons, but also met the love of his life, the
35 former Miss Brenda Faye Spell, penning a love story that
36 culminated in holy matrimony on November 7, 1981, which was
37 blessed with the birth of two cherished daughters, Jessica and
38 Amanda; and

39 WHEREAS, grounded in faith, Smith accepted Jesus Christ as
40 his Lord and Savior at an early age and became a dedicated member
41 of College Hill Missionary Baptist Church, where his spiritual
42 growth and moral character were deeply nurtured; and

43 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith devoted thirty years of service to Bell
44 South Telephone Company, demonstrating an exemplary work ethic and



45 commitment to excellence, and it was during this time that he
46 discovered his true calling in music and broadcasting, leading him
47 to pursue his passion at the Columbia School of Broadcasting in
48 Nashville, Tennessee, where upon completion, he emerged as "The
49 Mighty Burner," a name that would become synonymous with musical
50 brilliance and vibrant radio programming; and

51 WHEREAS, through his role as both a radio host and program
52 director at WMPR 90.1 FM, Mr. Smith became a guiding force in the
53 airwaves, bringing soul, jazz, and community-focused discussions
54 to listeners far and wide, which were embodied in his love for
55 music, storytelling and cultural expression resonated deeply,
56 making him a treasured figure in the Mississippi radio landscape;
57 and

58 WHEREAS, beyond music and broadcasting, Mr. Smith was an avid
59 reader, a lover of history and politics, and an admirer of classic
60 movies, establishing himself as a cherished companion among family
61 and friends admired for his passion for knowledge, keen intellect
62 and engaging conversations; and

63 WHEREAS, though he has traversed the rivers of life to now
64 stand upon the celestial shores of Heaven's grandeur, Mr. Smith's
65 legacy of love, wisdom and inspiration will live on through those
66 who survive him, including: his devoted wife of 43 years, Brenda
67 Faye Spell Smith; daughters, Jessica Yvette Tucker (Stephen) and
68 Amanda Michelle Smith; grandsons, Jayden and Kason Tucker; sister,
69 Joanna Smith-Stephens (George); niece, Jade Danielle Berry; aunt,



70 Yvonne Heloise Payne; special cousins, Fred L. Banks, Jr., Karl M.
71 Banks, Sr., Earle S. Banks, Wanda Brandon and Leneatra Payton; and
72 a host of other relatives, co-workers and friends; and

73 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
74 commend the lives of treasured icons of Mr. Smith's caliber,
75 though his physical presence will be missed, the echo of his
76 voice, the rhythm of his music, and the warmth of his soul will
77 continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing him:

78 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
79 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
80 mourn the loss and commemorate the extraordinary life of Mr.
81 Miller Bernard Smith, Jr., remembering his unwavering commitment
82 to family, faith, music, education and community, and express our
83 deepest sympathy to his family and friends upon his passing.

84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
85 furnished to the family of Mr. Miller Bernard Smith, Jr., to WMPR
86 90.1 FM and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

