

By: Representative Taylor

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 105

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMEMORATING THE LIFE,
2 SERVICE AND LEGACY OF MRS. ARELLA RENA ELLIS, 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 souls' destiny summoned the mortal presence of
11 dearly beloved, Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis, to eternal rest on March
12 14, 2025, as she made life's final transition from earthly
13 travailing to heavenly reward, rendering great sorrow and loss to
14 her family and many friends; and

15 WHEREAS, born on June 24, 1948, in Starkville, Mississippi,
16 to Thomas and Ella Ellis, both of whom preceded her in death, Mrs.
17 Ellis, affectionately known as "Rena," accepted Christ at an early
18 age at Pine Grove Missionary Baptist Church and later transferred



19 her membership to Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist Church, and there
20 is now a hush in our hearts as we come together to pay respect to
21 the memory of one who has been called to join the innumerable
22 heavenly caravan; and

23 WHEREAS, a proud graduate of B.L. Moor High School in
24 Crawford, Mississippi, Rena later relocated to Chicago, Illinois,
25 where she pursued higher education at Jones Business College,
26 South Shore Community College and Lydia Adams Beauty College,
27 earning a degree in cosmetology; and

28 WHEREAS, as love would prove itself premised on the
29 harmonious chords of two hearts intricately woven into, Rena gave
30 her hand in the covenant of holy matrimony to Tyrone Ellis in 1968
31 while the couple resided in Chicago, before later returning, in
32 1972, to Starkville, Mississippi, where they became business
33 owners, establishing Wig Island and LaVilla Hair Care Salon, and
34 from 1998 to 2005, they owned and managed the Bread of Life
35 Christian Bookstore in downtown Starkville; and

36 WHEREAS, a devoted wife, mother and grandmother, Mrs. Ellis'
37 love for her family was immeasurable, and she took great joy in
38 nurturing her two children, Stephen T. Ellis and Stephanie Renee
39 Witherspoon, and doting on her seven grandchildren, into each of
40 whom she instilled the revered life tenets of respect,
41 perseverance, integrity and hard work; and

42 WHEREAS, Rena possessed a vibrant and fulfilling life,
43 delighting in travel, particularly to New York to enjoy Broadway



44 performances, and indulging in her love for cakes and pies, as
45 well as serving as President of the Oktibbeha County Federation of
46 Democratic Women and as a member of the Oktibbeha County School
47 Board; and

48 WHEREAS, a woman of deep faith and commitment, who modeled
49 her Christian walk after Proverbs 31:10 esteem, Rena faithfully
50 served as the First Lady of Running Water Baptist Church in
51 Shuqualak, Mississippi, from 1995 to 2021, where she was also the
52 Chair of Women for Christ Ministries, leading with grace and
53 dedication; and

54 WHEREAS, though she has departed this earthly life to now
55 stand upon the celestial shores in wonderment of Heaven's
56 grandeur, in glorious reunion with the kindred spirits of loved
57 ones who transitioned before her, the memories of Mrs. Ellis will
58 continue to flourish in the hearts and minds of her survivors:
59 devoted and loving husband of 57 years, Tyrone Ellis; son, Stephen
60 T. Ellis; daughter, Stephanie Renee (Rashad) Witherspoon; seven
61 grandchildren, Zoie, Isaiah, Karter, Isley, Isla, Ivy Rose, and
62 I'dris; seven sisters, Loddie Clark, Era Jean Ellis, Nancy Glenn,
63 Shirley Harris, Essie R. (Lester) Barnes, Evelyn Ellis and Brenda
64 D. Johnson; three brothers, Ivan D. Hudson, Leonard Ellis and
65 Willie Clyde (Angie) Ellis; five sisters-in-law; and a host of
66 nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends; and

67 WHEREAS, we encourage the Ellis family to find solace from
68 these words recorded in II Corinthians 1:3-4, "Blessed be the God



69 and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God
70 of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we
71 may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the
72 comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God"; and

73 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
74 commend the monumental life of genuine individuals of Mrs. Ellis'
75 caliber, whose life exemplified faith, love and service, and who
76 touched the lives of all she encountered with her kindness and
77 unwavering devotion to family and community:

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, commemorate the life, service and legacy of Mrs.
81 Arella Rena Ellis, and express deepest sympathy to her family and
82 friends upon her passing.

83 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
84 furnished to the family of Mrs. Arella Rena Ellis and to the
85 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

