

By: Representative Bounds

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 118

1 A RESOLUTION MOURNING THE LOSS AND COMMENDING THE LIFE AND  
2 SELFLESS SACRIFICE OF FLIGHT NURSE DUSTIN BRETT POPE, WHO PERISHED  
3 IN THE LINE OF DUTY ON MARCH 10, 2025.

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

10 WHEREAS, a native of Neshoba County, Mississippi, born on  
11 April 15, 1989, to the union of his parents, Sylvia and Eldon  
12 Pope, Dustin Brett Pope, 35, a resident of Philadelphia,  
13 Mississippi, was a respected flight nurse and Base Supervisor for  
14 AirCare in Columbus who believed in the power of service and  
15 family, and there is now a hush in our hearts as we come together  
16 to pay respect to the memory of one who has been called to join  
17 the innumerable heavenly caravan; and



18 WHEREAS, a graduate of Neshoba Central High School and the  
19 Mississippi University for Women, Dustin's career in public  
20 service began in 2010 at Anderson Regional Medical Center, and his  
21 innate penchant to help people led him to serve in critical care  
22 and emergency departments at multiple Mississippi hospitals; and

23 WHEREAS, having joined UMMC's AirCare team in 2017, Dustin  
24 immediately distinguished himself as a skilled clinician and a  
25 compassionate caretaker; and

26 WHEREAS, a devout Christian and a beloved presence in the  
27 Arlington community, Dustin's faith walk was anchored by his  
28 steadfast membership with Macedonia Revival Center; and

29 WHEREAS, Mr. Pope's crowning achievement as a dedicated  
30 family man was characterized by the prized moniker as husband to,  
31 father of, nurturer and provider for his wife, Tabatha Adcock  
32 Pope, and their three children, Lexi, Harper and Rhett, into whose  
33 lives he poured every ounce of his being, and with whom he  
34 cherished every moment spent sharing the joys of his favorite  
35 pastimes as a farmer and nature-loving outdoorsman; and

36 WHEREAS, it is with great sorrow and solemn reverence that  
37 the Mississippi House of Representatives mourns the tragic and  
38 untimely loss of heroic first responder, Dustin Pope, who  
39 valiantly gave his life in the line of duty aboard the AirCare 3,  
40 Tail Number N835CS, medical transport helicopter on March 10,  
41 2025, and whose legacy of light, laughter and love touched all who  
42 knew him; and



43 WHEREAS, the extraordinary life of Mr. Pope, employed by the  
44 University of Mississippi Medical Center and Med-Trans  
45 Corporation, was a calling to protect, preserve and heal, and the  
46 commitment of his life and career to the emergency medical care of  
47 others, even at great personal risk, exemplified the highest  
48 ideals of courage, sacrifice and public service, characteristics  
49 that will forever define his legacy within the emergency medical  
50 and first responder community in Mississippi and throughout the  
51 nation; and

52 WHEREAS, Dustin shared a devotion to the mission of AirCare:  
53 to respond swiftly and expertly when lives hang in the balance,  
54 and his final act of devotion, returning from a completed patient  
55 transport, was emblematic of his character: selfless, purposeful  
56 and courageous; and

57 WHEREAS, though communications with air traffic control  
58 ceased moments before the crash, the pilot's final decision to  
59 attempt an emergency landing reflected their continued  
60 prioritization of safety and professionalism, even in the face of  
61 disaster; and

62 WHEREAS, the sacrifice of the AirCare Flight Team is a somber  
63 reminder of the risks borne daily by Mississippi's first  
64 responders and healthcare heroes, and their loss has profoundly  
65 impacted their families, their colleagues at the University of  
66 Mississippi Medical Center and Med-Trans Corporation and the  
67 communities they so faithfully served; and



68 WHEREAS, Governor Tate Reeves, Lieutenant Governor Delbert  
69 Hosemann, Speaker of the House Jason White and countless state and  
70 local leaders publicly expressed condolences, emphasizing the  
71 enduring bravery, professionalism and public service demonstrated  
72 by these men, and recognizing their ultimate sacrifice on behalf  
73 of all Mississippians, for which the State of Mississippi is  
74 eternally grateful; and

75 WHEREAS, Governor Tate Reeves has issued Executive Order No.  
76 1588, declaring March 17, 2025, as a day of mourning, ordering all  
77 flags to be flown at half-staff in honor of the fallen heroes,  
78 stating: "Our state will never forget the sacrifice of these  
79 heroes," etching their names into the perpetual history of our  
80 state's most courageous public servants; and

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

87 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
88 recognize the last full measure of devotion given by Dustin Pope  
89 and the AirCare 3 Flight Team, whose courage, character and  
90 compassion to go the last mile of the way will never be forgotten:

91 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
92 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby



93 mourn the loss, commend the life, and honor the meritorious  
94 professional service and selfless sacrifice of Dustin Brett Pope  
95 as a fallen crew member of AirCare 3, and extend deepest sympathy  
96 and gratitude to his surviving family, colleagues and community.

97 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
98 furnished to the family of Dustin Brett Pope, the University of  
99 Mississippi Medical Center, Med-Trans Corporation and to the  
100 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

