

By: Representative Scott

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIVES OF REVEREND DANIEL C.
2 RAINES, JR., AND MRS. WILLIE MAE SIMMONS RAINES AND EXPRESSING
3 DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON THEIR PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, Reverend Daniel C. Raines, Jr., born May 28, 1929,
5 in Dawson, Georgia, and Mrs. Willie Mae Simmons Raines, born May
6 12, 1928, in Heidelberg, Mississippi, departed this earthly life
7 in a sudden tragic automobile accident on Thursday, July 7, 2005,
8 to enter into eternal rest with their heavenly father, causing
9 great sorrow and loss to their family and friends; and

10 WHEREAS, brought up in godly council in their Christian
11 homes, both Reverend and Mrs. Raines learned to revere the Lord,
12 and confessed an early belief in his amazing grace and saving
13 mercies; and

14 WHEREAS, having met in Chicago, while working at the United
15 States Postal Service, Reverend Raines, who earned his bachelor of
16 arts degree from Governor State University and a master of
17 divinity from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary and Mrs.
18 Raines, who earned a bachelor of arts degree from Chicago State
19 University, united together in the holy bonds of matrimony in
20 1960, becoming flesh of each other's flesh and bone of each
21 other's bone; and

22 WHEREAS, the life of Reverend Raines is characteristic of
23 Psalms 37:23, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord:
24 and he delighteth in his way"; and

25 WHEREAS, the life of Mrs. Raines epitomized the scriptural
26 passage of Proverbs 31:10, "Who can find a virtuous woman? For her
27 price is far above rubies"; and

28 WHEREAS, their lives together as husband and wife, father and
29 mother, pastor and first lady and the very best of friends were
30 symbolic of the love, nurture, support, respect and attentiveness
31 each had for the other, indicative of the biblical principles
32 taught by them to their family and parishioners; and

33 WHEREAS, after 45 years of marriage and over the course of 25
34 years in the ministry, Reverend and Mrs. Raines touched the lives
35 of children and adults alike in Arkansas, Illinois, Kansas,
36 Mississippi, Nebraska and Texas through public education, mission
37 work, pastoral capacity and mentorship; and

38 WHEREAS, Reverend and Mrs. Raines were faithful members of
39 the St. Paul United Methodist Church, where they were active in
40 United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women; and

41 WHEREAS, Reverend and Mrs. Raines were also very active in
42 Jasper County where they organized, founded and chartered the
43 community-based service organization, "Working to Empower the
44 Community through Action Now" (WE CAN, Jasper County), whose
45 mission was service and dedication to Jasper County; and

46 WHEREAS, because this phenomenal couple believed in social
47 justice and political empowerment, they worked tirelessly to
48 educate the community, not only about voter registration, but the
49 importance of becoming active in the creation of public policy,
50 developing power to influence the political process and
51 integrating the political framework by holding public office; and

52 WHEREAS, though their physical presence is no longer with us,
53 the spirit of beauty, love, sincerity and humbleness, which was
54 the essence of their lives permeating the atmosphere like a
55 fragrant rose, will continue to flourish in the lives of their
56 loved ones, who will forever cherish their legacy and memory:
57 children, Gerald, WediSue, Joyce and Arleathia; eight
58 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and a host of other
59 relatives and friends; and

60 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
61 commend the life of such well-loved and admired individuals as
62 Reverend and Mrs. Raines, whose lives and works were testamentary
63 of their passion to be of service and assistance to others, truly
64 living the motto: "If I could help somebody as I pass along. If
65 I can cheer somebody with a word or song. If I can show somebody
66 that he's traveling wrong. Then my living shall not be in vain.":

67 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
68 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
69 commend the lives, achievements and contributions of these
70 spiritual giants, Reverend Daniel C. Raines, Jr., and Mrs. Willie
71 Mae Simmons Raines, and express our deepest sympathy to their
72 family and friends upon their passing.

73 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
74 furnished to the family of Reverend and Mrs. Raines and to the
75 members of the Capitol Press Corps.