

By: Representatives Whittington, Perkins,  
Clarke, Brown, Buck, Clark, Coleman (29th),  
Holland, Holloway, Howell, Huddleston,  
Johnson, Reynolds, Robinson (63rd),  
Straughter, Thomas, Watson

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 25

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE OF A GREAT PLAYWRIGHT AND  
2 TEACHER, ENDESHA IDA MAE HOLLAND, AND EXPRESSING THE SYMPATHY OF  
3 THE MISSISSIPPI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES UPON HER PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, the world lost a great literary artist when  
5 playwright and teacher, Endesha Ida Mae Holland, passed this life  
6 on January 25, 2006, while she slept; and

7 WHEREAS, Mrs. Holland was an award-winning dramatist whose  
8 play, "From the Mississippi Delta," was nominated for a Pulitzer  
9 Prize; and

10 WHEREAS, although she was a high school dropout, she was  
11 determined to earn a high school equivalency, enter college and  
12 earn a doctorate and she did all of these things within a span of  
13 20 years; and

14 WHEREAS, during her life, she taught American studies at the  
15 State University of New York and in Los Angeles, where she was  
16 professor emeritus at the University of Southern California's  
17 School of Theatre; and

18 WHEREAS, Mrs. Holland has been honored by many organizations  
19 during her life including the 1993 Finalist Award; the Fifteenth  
20 Annual Susan Smith Blackburn Prize, an International Yearly Award  
21 for "Parader Without a Permit"; the Western New York Region Martin  
22 Luther King, Jr., Commission-Life Achievement Award; the 1992  
23 Eighth National Conference Oni Award from the International Black  
24 Women's Congress; the Black Women's Forum, Inc., Award for  
25 outstanding academic and creative achievement sponsored by United  
26 States Congresswoman Maxine Waters, 29th District, Los Angeles;

27 the Buffalo News 43rd Annual Citizens of the Year Award; and many  
28 other awards; and

29 WHEREAS, to cherish her memory, she is survived by her son,  
30 Cedric Holland; a sister, Jean Beasley; and granddaughter, all of  
31 Buffalo, New York; and a brother, Charlie "Bud" Nellums, of  
32 Greenwood, Mississippi; and

33 WHEREAS, in spite of suffering from ataxia, a degenerative  
34 neurological disease, she continued to teach, produce, write and  
35 perform her work; and

36 WHEREAS, Mrs. Holland's fascinating literary works contain  
37 pieces of her life while growing up with social difficulties,  
38 being raised by a midwife mother who died in a house fire set by  
39 the Ku Klux Klan, her own rape at the age of 11, her teenage  
40 prostitution and her eventual involvement with the 1960s civil  
41 rights movement which changed her life; and

42 WHEREAS, in spite of her many childhood struggles, Mrs.  
43 Holland was also very active in the civil rights movement as a  
44 child and was one of the first civil rights workers from Greenwood  
45 who joined the movement with Bob Moses, Willie Peacock, Medgar  
46 Evers, Martin Luther King and Stokley Carmichael; and

47 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
48 recognize and commend excellence:

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
50 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
51 commend the life of a great playwright and teacher, Endesha Ida  
52 Mae Holland, and express deepest sympathy upon her passing.

53 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
54 furnished to the family of Endesha Ida Mae Holland and to the  
55 members of the Capitol Press Corps.