

By: Representative Tullos

To: Rules

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 65

1 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. RONALD  
2 "RONNIE" LEWIS BUCKLEY, AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS  
3 FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

4 WHEREAS, it is written in Ecclesiastes 3:1 that "To  
5 everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under  
6 the Heaven," and as such, on December 18, 2022, the immaculate  
7 author and finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal  
8 presence of dearly beloved, Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Lewis Buckley, to  
9 eternal rest, rendering great sorrow and loss to his family,  
10 friends and community; and

11 WHEREAS, born on November 26, 1945, to Dr. Frank W. Buckley  
12 and Mrs. Vonnie Crouch Buckley, in Alexandria, Louisiana, Mr.  
13 Buckley was a man after his father's heart, taking over as  
14 publisher of the *Jasper County News*, *Smith County Reformer*, and  
15 *Laurel Impact*, and he also had papers in both Meridian,  
16 Mississippi, and Hattiesburg, Mississippi, at one time; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Buckley loved his community, and he loved the  
18 news and business, much like his father, Dr. Frank Buckley, who



19 served as head of the journalism department at the University of  
20 Southern Mississippi from 1954 until 1963, and as department  
21 chair, Dr. Buckley acquired a press for the *Student Printz*, making  
22 the university the first in the country to have its own printing  
23 operation and allowing students the full experience of newspaper  
24 production, and Mr. Buckley followed in his father's footsteps,  
25 especially with the printing press, as Buckley Newspapers had one  
26 of the last locally-owned presses running in Mississippi until two  
27 years ago; and

28 WHEREAS, Mr. Buckley and his father started Buckley  
29 Newspapers in 1967, and nine years later he came up with the idea  
30 to mail a free paper during a time when paid publications were the  
31 industry trend, and his idea, called the *Impact*, was later mailed  
32 to dozens of zip codes and over 200,000 homes every week, allowing  
33 Mr. Buckley to do business with some of the largest companies in  
34 the United States; and

35 WHEREAS, Mr. Buckley enjoyed the wonderful things that life  
36 had to offer, including fishing, following Southern Miss sports,  
37 traveling, and going to church, where he often led the singing,  
38 and he was always a ready partner for a good meal, which would be  
39 accompanied by a hearty discussion of religion, business, sports,  
40 or politics, and he loved conversations about the Bible and his  
41 Lord Jesus more than all the other topics; and

42 WHEREAS, devoted to his family, Mr. Buckley could be seen at  
43 local games where his grandkids played, still cheering them on



44 while cheering on any local teams that the newspaper covered, and  
45 truly, there are no words to describe how one-of-a-kind he was and  
46 how many people he impacted; and

47 WHEREAS, though he has traversed the river of life to reunite  
48 with those who answered God's summons to life eternal and now  
49 beckon his arrival to the celestial shores of Heaven's grandeur,  
50 such as his parents, Dr. Frank W. Buckley and Mrs. Vonnie Crouch  
51 Buckley; the legacy of Mr. Buckley's indelible imprint upon our  
52 lives will continue to refresh the hearts and fond memories of his  
53 loved ones, including his wife, Mrs. Carolyn Langford Buckley;  
54 sons, Michael Buckley and Zach Buckley; brother, Charles Ray  
55 Buckley; sister, Mary Carole Bowers; grandsons, Zach Buckley, Jr.,  
56 John Paul Buckley, and Brooks Buckley; granddaughters, Lana  
57 Buckley, Reagan Buckley, and Hannah Grace Buckley; and a host of  
58 other relatives and dear friends; and

59 WHEREAS, Mr. Buckley will forever be loved, cherished and  
60 missed by all who knew him, and since it is written in 2  
61 Corinthians 5:8, that to be "absent from the body is to be present  
62 with the Lord," his family and friends can find peace and comfort  
63 during this difficult time; and

64 WHEREAS, a genuine man of exceptional character, Mr.  
65 Buckley's outstanding legacy will continue for generations to  
66 come, and precious memories of time spent with him will hopefully  
67 continue to provide warmth, peace and comfort to his loved ones;  
68 and



69           WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to  
70 recognize and honor the lives of great Mississippians, especially  
71 those such as Mr. Buckley, a wonderful man whose life's light  
72 illuminated the path of hope for all he encountered along this  
73 earthly sojourn:

74           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
75 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby  
76 mourn the loss and honor the life and legacy of Mr. Ronald  
77 "Ronnie" Lewis Buckley, and express deepest sympathy to his family  
78 and friends upon his passing.

79           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
80 furnished to the family of Mr. Ronald "Ronnie" Lewis Buckley, and  
81 to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

