

By: Representative Clarke

To: Rules

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 88

1 A RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. ROY L.
2 DIXON, SR., AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND
3 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 February 18, 2023, the immaculate
7 author and finisher of our soul's destiny summoned the mortal
8 presence of dearly beloved, Mr. Roy L. Dixon, Sr., to eternal
9 rest, rendering great sorrow and loss to his family, friends and
10 community; and

11 WHEREAS, born on October 17, 1942, in Georgetown,
12 Mississippi, Mr. Dixon was the eleventh child born to Mr. Sebie
13 and Mrs. Louisa Mallard Dixon, and he attended Brushy Creek High
14 School, and growing up, he was a faithful member of New Hope M.B.
15 Church in Georgetown; and

16 WHEREAS, Mr. Dixon moved to Jackson, Mississippi, in 1959,
17 where he joined St. Luther M.B. Church, serving as a trustee and



18 on the ushers board, and he later became an active member of the
19 Temple of Yah; and

20 WHEREAS, true love struck, and in 1961, Mr. Dixon exchanged
21 the vows of holy matrimony with Ms. Maxine Haley of Crystal
22 Springs, Mississippi, and to this union, six children were born,
23 three boys and three girls; and

24 WHEREAS, always a hard worker, Mr. Dixon grew up working from
25 sunup to sundown on a farm, growing all types of vegetables, and
26 hauling pulpwood and logs, and he began working at Illinois
27 Central Gulf Railroad, where he retired after 20 years, becoming
28 one of the company's first African-American car inspectors, and
29 during that time, he also worked at the Mississippi School Supply
30 Company, starting out working in the warehouse, and because of his
31 exceptional work ethic, he was later promoted to the salesman
32 position, becoming the first African-American to hold that
33 position; and

34 WHEREAS, Mr. Dixon also later owned a janitorial service and
35 a record shop in Crystal Springs, and while never passing up an
36 opportunity, he learned how to cook pork skins from Mr. John
37 Holland, and as the producing and selling of pork skins became a
38 huge success, in April 1974, he built his first building to
39 manufacture Dixon's Fried Pork Skins next to his home; and

40 WHEREAS, trailblazing a path for future entrepreneurs, Mr.
41 Dixon became the first African-American in Mississippi to be
42 approved by the State Health Department and to be USDA Inspected,



43 as well as the first African-American in Mississippi to
44 manufacture and distribute his own product to be sold in stores;
45 and

46 WHEREAS, in 1980, Mr. Dixon moved to a 10,000 square foot
47 building on Lynch Street, and in 1982, he was the first to bring
48 Jay's Potato Chips to Jackson, Mississippi, and there were
49 numerous awards given as a result of his business from 1980 until
50 1983; and

51 WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious career in business, Mr.
52 Dixon was tremendously successful and received over 40 different
53 awards and other recognitions as an entrepreneur, such as
54 Entrepreneur of the Year for the Southern Region of the Small
55 Business Association, the 1984 Minority Business Award from
56 Jackson, Mississippi, in which he was invited to Washington, D.C.,
57 where President Ronald Reagan spoke to him and others in the Rose
58 Garden and recognized him for his outstanding achievement, and an
59 award that was presented to him by former Mississippi Governor,
60 William Winter, at a luncheon at the Governor's Mansion, and in
61 1986, he was featured in the *USA Today* paper, as well as a
62 *Mississippi Today* book in 1988; and

63 WHEREAS, dedicated to excellence, Mr. Dixon established
64 scholarships where he sent 15 students to Jackson State
65 University, a truly honorable effort; and

66 WHEREAS, Mr. Dixon later partnered with N.L. Carson and built
67 a 20,000 square foot building in Carthage, Mississippi, named



68 Central Snacks, Inc., and currently, Mr. Carson, along with
69 several employees, manufactures Dixon Pork Skins and other
70 products, and he has distributors in several different states; and

71 WHEREAS, although Mr. Dixon experienced some difficult
72 moments while in business, that did not stop him from pursuing his
73 dream as he understood that success does not come easy, it takes
74 hard work, and sometimes disappointments; and

75 WHEREAS, devoted to his faith, Mr. Dixon believed that
76 putting God first was most important and was committed to sharing
77 his faith, and because of this, the late Sheriff McMillan of Hinds
78 County, Mississippi, agreed for him to teach at Raymond Detention
79 Center, and he began teaching on Tuesday nights, and later started
80 teaching downtown in the Jackson Police Department jail facility
81 on Thursday nights; and

82 WHEREAS, a true philanthropist, from 2002 through 2012, Mr.
83 Dixon did not miss a week of teaching at the detention center,
84 even teaching on his birthday and having a birthday party for
85 himself, as he brought the cakes and snacks and they would all
86 celebrate with him, and he would purchase Bibles and reading
87 glasses for those that needed them; and

88 WHEREAS, Mr. Dixon later began teaching at the Henley-Young
89 Juvenile Detention Center, where his motto was, "You Are Better
90 Than That", and he had pamphlets made for the juveniles to learn
91 the Lord's Prayer, Psalm 23 and the Ten Commandments; and



92 WHEREAS, with a giving heart and a love for serving others,
93 especially those most in need, Mr. Dixon often gave lunches to
94 sick and bereaved families in their time of need, and he was a
95 person who loved his community and wanted to make a positive
96 difference; and

97 WHEREAS, Mr. Dixon's passion was to see small
98 African-American businesses thrive and succeed, and he loved
99 people and wanted to see them smile, and he enjoyed a good laugh
100 by telling some of his famous jokes, and as a true man of God, he
101 did not only leave you with a smile, but he also left you with a
102 word of wisdom and encouragement; and

103 WHEREAS, Mr. Dixon will forever be remembered by his family
104 and community as a loving husband and father, outstanding leader,
105 successful businessman, incredible activist, and a man with
106 extraordinary integrity and wisdom; and

107 WHEREAS, though he has traversed the river of life to reunite
108 with those who answered God's summons to life eternal and now
109 beckon his arrival to the celestial shores of Heaven's grandeur,
110 such as his parents, Mr. Sebie and Mrs. Louisa Dixon; daughter,
111 Julie Dixon Moses; sisters, Lenora Wilson, Mable Rogers, Rubystyne
112 Brent and Willie Celeste Catchings; brothers, Earl Dixon, Sr.,
113 Colie Dixon, Carlee Dixon, Sebie Dixon, Jr., and Wilmer Dixon; the
114 legacy of Mr. Dixon's indelible imprint upon our lives will
115 continue to refresh the hearts and fond memories of his loved
116 ones, including his devoted wife of 62 years, Mrs. Maxine Dixon;



117 children, Pamerlynn Brown, Darryl Dixon, Barry Dixon, Renea Dixon
118 and Ron Dixon, Jr.; sister, Louise Gordon; sisters-in-law,
119 Catherine Hardin, Sue Washington, Cynthia Shearer and Lynn Brock;
120 brother-in-law, Pete Haley; 15 grandchildren; 14
121 great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, other
122 relatives and dear friends; and

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

128 WHEREAS, a genuine man of exceptional character, Mr. Dixon's
129 outstanding legacy will continue for generations to come, and
130 precious memories of time spent with him will hopefully continue
131 to provide warmth, peace and comfort to his loved ones; and

132 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the House of Representatives to
133 recognize and honor the lives of extraordinary Mississippians,
134 especially those such as Mr. Dixon, a man whose life's light
135 illuminated the path of hope for all he encountered along this
136 earthly sojourn:

137 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
138 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby
139 mourn the loss and honor the life and legacy of Mr. Roy L. Dixon,
140 Sr., and express deepest sympathy to his family and friends upon
141 his passing.



142 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
143 furnished to the family of Mr. Roy L. Dixon, Sr., and to the
144 members of the Capitol Press Corps.

