Chapter No. 2062
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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 98

Originated in House Don Richardson Clerk

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 98

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE LIFE, LEGACY AND SERVICE OF MR. LAWRENCE MADISON SUTTON, SR., AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS UPON HIS PASSING.

WHEREAS, Mr. Lawrence Madison Sutton, Sr., born on August 17, 1924, to Talmon and Bessie Sutton in Monticello, Mississippi, departed this earthly life on Wednesday, October 27, 2010, to enter into eternal rest with his Heavenly Father, bringing great sorrow and loss to his family and friends; and

WHEREAS, a man of great faith and fortitude, Mr. Sutton, who accepted Christ at an early age, was baptized and became a member of First Baptist Church of Monticello and would later join New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church upon moving to Itta Bena in 1964, where he faithfully served as deacon and Superintendent of the Sunday School; and

WHEREAS, one who always attributed his success in life to his strong family foundation, he was united in holy matrimonial bonds to Dorthalia (Dot) Starks on August 17, 1946, and celebrated 64 years together as man and wife before the presence of his soul was required to answer life's roll call in a higher dimension of spiritual manifestation, but not before yielding seven children of their fruitful union: Dr. Lawrence Sutton, Jr., Mable Sutton, Dr. Elaine Sutton-Robertson, Dr. Dwayne Sutton, Dexter Earl Sutton, Esq., Dr. Millicent Sutton and Santiago Sutton; 12 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and a host of other relatives and friends; and

WHEREAS, an alumnus of Tennessee State University, holding bachelor's and master's degrees in biology, Mr. Sutton devoted his

career to public education, gaining his first teaching position in Belzoni, Mississippi, and subsequently was chosen to serve as assistant principal under Mr. O.M. McNair before becoming Principal of Montgomery High School in Louise, Mississippi, from 1955 to 1964, and coached the girls basketball and track teams, all while teaching chemistry classes; and

WHEREAS, in July 1964, he began a new career with Mississippi Valley State University as a professor in the biology department until 1972 and then as the college's registrar until his 1983 retirement, and assumed the additional role as advisor to the college's Pan-Hellenic Council; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Sutton was active in the community and in numerous civic organizations including: Commissioner of Elections to the City of Itta Bena; Chairman of the Board of Directors for the HeadStart Program for Leflore County and several other Mississippi Delta counties; as an official of the South Western Athletic Conference (SWAC) and many Northwest Mississippi high schools; a member of the Rho Gamma Lambda Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; faculty advisor to the Zeta Phi Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., for 41 years, longer than anyone in the history of the fraternity; and a proud member of the Gamma Nu Boule' of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, an organization committed to professional association and community service; and

WHEREAS, one who never met a stranger, he touched and changed the lives and character of hundreds of men and women who are now making the world a better place, as he was a true "people" person, who always advocated treating all people with kindness and a smile, keeping love as the impetus of his faith and belief in those he touched directly and indirectly; and

WHEREAS, though he has traversed the river of life to now stand on the golden shores of Heaven, the legacy of his memory and service will continue to thrive in the lives of all those impacted and touched by his life's presence on this earth; and

WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to commend the life of such a generously benevolent, dedicated, hardworking and family oriented individual as Mr. Sutton, whose life resonated with a call to service to humanity:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN, That we do hereby commend the life, legacy and service of Mr. Lawrence Madison Sutton, Sr., and express deepest sympathy to his family and friends upon his passing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be furnished to the family of Mr. Sutton and to the members of the Capitol Press Corps.

ADOPTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
March 11, 2011

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ADOPTED BY THE SENATE
March 18, 2011

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE